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Principles of early human development and germ cell program from conserved model systems

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Abstract

Human primordial germ cells (hPGCs), the precursors of sperm and eggs, originate during week 2-3 of early postimplantation development¹. Using *in vitro* models of hPGC induction²⁻⁴, recent studies suggest striking mechanistic differences in specification of human and mouse PGCs⁵. This may partly be due to the divergence in their pluripotency networks, and early postimplantation development⁶⁻⁸. Since early human embryos are inaccessible for direct studies, we considered alternatives, including porcine embryos that, as in humans, develop as bilaminar embryonic discs. Here we show that porcine PGCs (pPGCs) originate from the posterior pre-primitive streak competent epiblast by sequential upregulation of SOX17 and BLIMP1 in response to WNT and BMP signalling. Together with human and monkey *in vitro* models simulating peri-gastrulation development, we show conserved principles for epiblast development for competency for PGC fate, followed by initiation of the epigenetic program⁹⁻¹¹, regulated by a balanced SOX17–BLIMP1 gene dosage. Our combinatorial approach using human, porcine and monkey *in vivo* and *in vitro* models, provides synthetic insights on early human development.

1 First, we sought the origin of porcine PGCs (pPGCs) in ~E9.5-E16 peri-gastrulating
2 embryos. At ~E9.5–E10, key pluripotency genes NANOG, OCT4 and SOX2 are
3 detected in the epiblast of bilaminar embryos (**Fig. 1a**). In ~E11 pre-primitive streak
4 (PS) stage embryos with an incipient anterior-posterior axis (**Extended Data Fig. 1a**),
5 BRACHYURY (T) expression is evident in the posterior pseudo-stratified epiblast cells,
6 together with NANOG and OCT4, but SOX2 is downregulated (**Fig. 1b**).

7
8 In the midline of early-PS stage embryos (~E11.5-E12), we see the first cluster of
9 SOX17 positive (+ve) cells in the posterior end of the nascent PS (arrows in **Fig. 1c,d**;
10 **Extended Data Fig. 1b**); most of these express BLIMP1, except for those at the
11 anterior end. Expression of SOX17 precedes BLIMP1; NANOG is retained with
12 upregulation occurring in SOX17/BLIMP1 +ve pPGCs (**Fig. 1d**; **Extended Data Fig.**
13 **1b**). In ~E12.5-E13.5 embryos, pPGCs exhibit co-expression of SOX17, BLIMP1,
14 NANOG, TFAP2C, OCT4, and pPGC cell surface marker Sda/GM2¹², but have low
15 levels of T (**Fig. 1e**, **Extended Data Fig. 1c,d**). This pPGC cluster of ~60
16 SOX17/BLIMP1 +ve cells located at the border between embryonic and extraembryonic
17 tissues in early-PS stage embryos (~E12), increases to >300 PGCs by ~E15.5
18 (**Extended Data Fig. 2a-c**). A 6-hour (h) pulse of EdU labelling shows that DNA
19 synthesis ceases soon after the detection of Sda/GM2 epitope (**Fig. 1f**, **Extended Data**
20 **Fig.2d**). This indicates that the sharp increase in their number is likely due to the
21 recruitment of additional pPGCs from T+ve competent progenitors. Thereafter, pPGCs
22 enter quiescence and pause prior to migration, as in mice¹³ (**Fig. 1f**, **Extended Data Fig.**
23 **2c**). Notably, PRDM14 expression in pPGCs is weak and apparently cytoplasmic
24 (**Extended Data Fig. 1f**), while SOX2 is undetectable (**Extended Data Fig. 2e,f**).

Initiation of the germline-specific epigenetic program^{9,14} is evident in nascent pPGCs with a global reduction in 5-methylcytosine (5mC) (**Extended Data Fig. 3b,c**) and concomitant enrichment of 5-hydroxymethylcytosine (5hmC) (**Fig. 1g,h**). Consistently, UHRF1 is downregulated (**Fig. 1i**) and TET1 is upregulated (**Extended Data Fig. 3a**). Progressive reduction in H3K9me2 and G9a expression is also evident (**Extended Data Fig. 3b,c**) and global DNA demethylation follows as pPGCs migrate towards the gonads (**Extended Data Fig. 3d**). Expression of SOX17, BLIMP1, TFAP2C, OCT4 and NANOG continues in pPGCs (arrowheads in **Fig. 1e**, **Extended Data Fig. 2e,f**), as seen in equivalent hPGCs *in vivo*^{4,9}. Thus the key features of early pPGCs from their origin in peri-gastrulation porcine epiblast has close similarities with hPGCs following sequential SOX17 and BLIMP1 expression, and the onset of the epigenetic program^{4,9}.

To determine when porcine epiblasts gain competency for pPGC fate, we isolated epiblast discs away from the hypoblast and trophectoderm at different stages of development (**Fig. 2a,b,d,e**). We exposed them to cytokines, including BMP2 or 4^{3,4}(henceforth called Cytokines or Cy) for 64h to induce pPGCs *ex vivo* (**Fig. 2f**). While no response was seen in ~E10.5-E11 early bilaminar disc epiblasts, an efficient induction of pPGCs occurs in epiblasts from ~E11.5 pre-PS stage embryos, as judged by co-expression of three of SOX17, BLIMP1, NANOG, OCT4 and TFAP2C (**Fig. 2g,h**, **Extended Data Fig. 3e**). Note a strong BMP2/4 signal from the posterior pre-streak and early PS pig embryos *in vivo*^{15,16} (**Fig. 2a**), with nuclear pSMAD1/5/8 localisation in the posterior epiblast (**Fig. 2c**). BMP4 inhibitor (LDN193189) abrogates (0/5) pPGC induction (**Fig. 2g**, **Extended Data Fig. 3e**). The competency for pPGC fate wanes

during early-PS stage concomitantly with the onset of gastrulation and mesendoderm differentiation (**Fig. 1c**). WNT signalling from the posterior pre-PS epiblast is also apparently important (**Fig. 2a**), as evidenced by the high proportion of T +ve cells, a downstream target on WNT¹⁷, at the onset of pPGC induction (**Fig. 1b**). A WNT inhibitor (WNTi) diminishes pPGC induction at this time, but has no effect on early-PS stage epiblast when they are already competent for pPGC fate (**Fig. 2g, Extended Data Fig. 3e**). Expression of T in response to WNT is a common feature of competency for germ cell fate^{3,4,17}.

Next, since we cannot examine early human embryos directly, we decided to simulate human peri-gastrulation development and induce hPGC fate *in vitro*. We established an *in vitro* model with human pluripotent stem cells (hPSC) for mesendoderm (ME) and peri-gastrulation development¹⁸⁻²⁰ (**Fig. 3a**). These hPSCs maintained in a defined conventional medium (henceforth; Conv-hPSCs, see **Methods**), are probably equivalent to the pre-gastrulating porcine epiblast²¹. To follow gain and loss of competency for hPGCs in the course of ME differentiation, we used cells with a sensitive *NANOS3-tdTomato* (NT) reporter to assess hPGC induction efficiency (see **Extended Data Fig. 4**). We induced hPGCs at 6h intervals by Cytokines (**Fig. 3a**) and observed a peak of competency for hPGC fate at ~12h during ME differentiation, which declines thereafter (**Fig. 3b,d**), illustrating a step-wise transition in cell states. Accordingly, competent cells show moderate upregulation of PS markers; T, MIXL, GSC, EVX1 and EOMES, and a slight reduction of SOX2 (**Fig. 3e, Extended Data Fig. 5a, b**). At 18h onwards, we detect further upregulation of Late PS markers, including TBX6, MESP1/2, and *SNAIL* (*SNAI1/2*), which triggers epithelial-mesenchymal transition, occurring during gastrulation²² (**Extended Data Fig. 5b**). The response of

cells to signalling changes significantly at this time, since BMP2/4 now induces mesodermal cells (**Extended Data Fig. 5b, e-h**), while Activin A and a BMP inhibitor induce definitive endoderm (DE) very efficiently¹⁸ (**Fig. 3c,d. Extended Data Fig. 5e-h**). Thus, from ~12h, onwards, the precursors of ME (or Pre-ME) are competent for PGC fate, but from ~18h (ME), PGC competency is progressively lost, with concomitant gain of competency for DE/mesoderm fates (**Fig. 3a-c**).

We find that both WNT and ACTIVIN/NODAL signalling are necessary for competency for hPGCs in Pre-ME at 12h (**Extended Data Fig. 5c**). Inhibition of BMP signalling during ME differentiation dramatically reduces the efficiency of hPGC induction, suggesting a role for endogenous BMP in competency for hPGCs (**Extended Data Fig. 5d**). Addition of BMP during Pre-ME(12h) however does not affect hPGC competency, but it favours differentiation into lateral mesoderm (LM) at 24h, which originates from mid/posterior PS (**Extended Data Fig. 5e-h**). By contrast, DE differentiation occurs in the anterior PS as seen in PS-stage porcine embryos (arrowheads in **Fig 1d, Extended Data Fig.1c**), suggesting that BMP confers posterior characteristics to PS during gastrulation (**Extended Data Fig. 5i**). The combined evidence from porcine embryos, and simulations in the *in vitro* model with Conv-hPSCs, shows progressive and transient acquisition of competency for hPGC, followed by competency for DE/mesoderm.

To test if this model for hPGC specification applies to non-human primates, we used *Cynomolgus* monkey PSCs (cmPSCs) to induce ME differentiation (**Extended Data Fig. 6a,b**). Remarkably, cmPSCs also show a temporal gain of competency for cmPGC fate at ~12h during ME differentiation, and thereafter DE and mesoderm at 24h

(**Extended Data Fig. 6c-f**). A recent study suggests that cmPGCs originate from the nascent amnion, although their origin from the posterior epiblast also cannot be excluded²³; a dual origin from both tissues is however possible. A detailed molecular analysis of amnion is important, especially since some PGC genes, such as SOX17 and BLIMP1 also have roles elsewhere, including extraembryonic tissues^{24,25}. Further traceable analysis on *in vivo* non-human primate embryo, and potentially on *in vitro* development of human embryos is merited, as well as of other 'flat disc' mammalian embryos. Note that the extraembryonic tissues display greater diversity and are likely to be less developmentally constrained compared to the epiblast²⁶.

Next, we examined the combinatorial roles of the key transcription factors. Since SOX17 is the key regulator of both hPGC and DE fates (**Fig. 3d**)^{4,27}, we tested how it induces these two distinct cell fates. Ectopic expression of SOX17 in Pre-ME at 12h induces hPGCs resulting in NT/OCT4/BLIMP1+ve cells, but in ME at 24h it induces FOXA2+ve (DE) efficiently (**Fig. 3f,g**). The underlying mechanism for this change in response to SOX17 requires further investigation. During the induction of hPGCs in Pre-ME by BMP (**Extended Data Fig. 7a,b**), we first detect SOX17 at 12h, of which ~30-40% show co-expression with BLIMP1, but not TFAP2C (**Extended Data Fig. 7c,d**), as in the pig embryo (**Extended Data Fig. 1e**). TFAP2C is detected at ~18h, as the number of SOX17/BLIMP1/TFAP2c+ve cells increases progressively. These putative hPGCs eventually form a cluster in the middle of embryoids by 48h (**Extended Data Fig. 7b,c,e**). At 12h, we see NANOG expression, which increases progressively in SOX17/BLIMP1+ve cells at 24h onwards (**Extended Data Fig. 7e,f**). However, unlike in mouse²⁸, NANOG alone cannot induce hPGCs (**Extended Data Fig. 8a-c**), and

PRDM14 expression appears to be weak^{2,4}, and might be cytoplasmic in E14 pPGCs (**Extended Data Fig. 1f**) and in *in vivo* hPGCs⁵. Notably, PRDM14 is critical for mouse PGC fate and for the initiation of epigenetic reprogramming²⁹. Further studies are required to determine what role, if any, PRDM14 has in porcine or human PGCs.

Next, we examined SOX17, BLIMP1 and TFAP2C individually and in combination for the induction of hPGCs in the reversibly PGC-competent hPSCs (Comp-hPSC)⁴ (**Extended Data Fig. 4c-j**, see **Methods**). The Comp-hPSC has the NT-reporter, as well as inducible *SOX17*, *BLIMP1* and *TFAP2C* transgenes (**Extended Data Fig. 8d-g**). We find that BLIMP1 and TFAP2C individually and together elicit a negligible response after 2 days, while SOX17 alone produces a modest response, which does not change when combined with TFAP2C (**Fig. 4a**). Remarkably, SOX17 with BLIMP1 produce a highly accentuated response, resulting in a large proportion of NT-positive cells (**Fig. 4a**), suggesting that they act synergistically and rapidly (within ~24h), compared to 96h for Cytokines to induce a similar response (**Fig. 4b,c**). This response is preceded by downregulation of SOX2³⁰ and upregulation of 'naïve' pluripotency genes including KLF4 and TFCP2L1, as in hPGCs *in vivo*⁹ (**Fig. 4e, Extended Data Fig. 8h**). The response to SOX17-BLIMP1 is otherwise similar to that induced by Cytokines as judged by global RNA-seq (**Fig. 4d, Extended Data Fig. 8i,j**).

For further mechanistic insights, we induced ectopic *SOX17* with or without *BLIMP1* expression in *SOX17* null Comp-hPSC⁴ (**Extended Data Fig. 9a, Extended Data Fig. 10a,b**). Although *SOX17* initiates hPGC fate, there is also a significant increase in FOXA2 expression, an endodermal gene (**Fig. 4f**). Accordingly, FACS-purified cells

show FOXA1, FOXA2 and HNF1 β expression, alongside PGC markers, OCT4, NANOG, BLIMP1 and TFAP2C (**Extended Data Fig. 9b**), and the cell surface marker CXCR4 shared by both endoderm¹⁹ and PGC in humans (**Extended Data Fig. 9c,d**). This might occur when ectopic SOX17 gene dosage exceeds the levels induced by BMP in wildtype Comp-hPSC (**Extended Data Fig. 9b, e-h**), without a proportionate increase in BLIMP1 (**Extended Data Fig. 9i**); BLIMP1 represses endodermal genes during hPGC specification⁹. Indeed, concomitantly high BLIMP1 and SOX17 induce hPGCs robustly and rapidly while suppressing endoderm genes (**Fig. 4g, Extended Data Fig. 10c**). SOX17–BLIMP1 also initiate the germline-specific epigenetic program⁹; accordingly, we observe downregulation of DNMT3A, DNMT3B and UHRF1, and upregulation of TET2 (**Extended Data Fig. 8k**), as in pPGCs (**Extended Data Fig. 3b,d**).

The *ex vivo* peri-gastrulation porcine embryos, and *in vitro* mimics for human and monkey development together exemplify conserved principles for PGC specification in the context of epiblast development in flat disc embryos (**Fig. 4h**). We show how SOX17 likely regulates both PGCs and DE. We propose that signalling followed by epigenetic priming of regulatory elements might confer competency for PGC fate, and thereafter DE/mesoderm, as an integral part of epiblast development program towards gastrulation. Remarkably, SOX17-BLIMP1 are necessary and sufficient for inducing PGCs, and for initiating the germline-specific epigenetic program. Once specified, PGCs are irreversibly committed to the germline fate (**Extended Data Fig. 2e,f, Extended Data Fig. 10d,e**). Notably, our integrated approach provides insights on early human development and cell fate decisions.

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Author contributions

T.K. designed experiments and performed cell culture, plasmid construction, IF, qPCR, RNA-seq, Westerns, data analysis and wrote the paper; W.W.C.T. designed experiments and analysed RNA-seq. N.I. performed preliminary work and designed experiments, and S.D. performed bioinformatics. A.S. helped with a hPSC reporter. H.Z., S.W., D.K. and CA designed and performed IF and culture of pig embryos and epiblasts. D.A.C. and R.W designed and performed in situ hybridizations and IF. R.A. supervised the project, designed experiments, performed dissections and wrote the paper. M.A.S. supervised the project, designed experiments, and wrote the paper. All authors discussed and contributed to the manuscript. The authors declare no competing financial interests.

1 Main Figure Legends

2 Fig.1 Specification of PGCs in gastrulating porcine embryos

3 Serial sections with immunostainings:

4 **a.** Bilaminar disc embryo (~E9.5-E10); Arrowhead marks the
5 epiblast/trophectoderm boundary. Scale bar: 20 μ m.

6 **b.** Pre-primitive streak embryo (Pre-PS; ~E11) . Scale bar: 10 μ m.

7 **c.** Early primitive streak embryo (Early-PS; ~E11.5-E12) with SOX17 and
8 BLIMP1 expression. Close-up (dashed lines) shows four SOX17 +ve and
9 BLIMP1 -ve cells (arrows). Dashed lines highlight SOX17/BLIMP +ve cells. The
10 hypoblast is SOX17/BLIMP1 +ve. Scale bar: 10 μ m.

11 **d.** Primitive streak embryo (PS; ~E12) with a pPGC cluster showing SOX17 and
12 NANOG expression. Four SOX17 +ve cells without NANOG in the most anterior
13 pPGC cluster (arrows in middle image). The right most image (arrows) point to
14 five SOX17 +ve and BLIMP1 -ve cells. Arrowheads show anterior PS with
15 SOX17 +ve definitive endoderm cells. Dashed lines highlight SOX17/BLIMP +ve
16 cells. Scale bar: 10 μ m. Inset shows the whole embryo.

17 **e.** Late primitive streak embryo (Late-PS; ~E12.5-E13.5) with a pPGC cluster
18 (arrow) showing NANOG, SOX17, TFAP2C, BLIMP1, T and Sda/GM2
19 expression. Arrowheads: early migratory pPGCs. Scale bar: 25 μ m.

20 A \leftrightarrow P; anterior-posterior axis

21 **f.** Quantification of EdU incorporation in pPGCs and somatic cells. Numbers
22 denote analyzed cells.

23 **g.** Sagittal section of E14.5 embryo immunostained for OCT4 and 5hmC, and
24 the pPGC cluster (white square) . Arrows: migratory PGCs. Scale bar: 20 μ m.

- 1 **h.** Quantification of 5hmC in analyzed cells. (Mann-Whitney: * $p < 0.01$).
- 2 **i.** Immunostaining for UHRF1 in E14 embryos. Dashed line delimits the pPGC
- 3 cluster. Scale bar: 20 μm .

4

5

6 **Fig.2 Competence for pPGC specification**

- 7 **a.** Representation of porcine epiblasts and signaling for pPGC induction.
- 8 **b.** Dissected epiblasts. Scale bar: 0.25 mm.
- 9 **c.** Serial sections of a Pre-PS embryo showing pSMAD1/5/8 and T. Close-up
- 10 (dashed lines) of posterior epiblast cells (arrows) with nuclear pSMAD but no T.
- 11 Scale bar: 20 μm .
- 12 **d.** Epiblasts culture for 64 h.
- 13 **e.** Epiblasts prior to culture. Scale bar: 0.5mm.
- 14 **f.** Epiblasts after 64 h culture.
- 15 **g.** Scatter plot for the triple positive pPGCs staining.
- 16 **h.** Triple immunostaining of epiblasts. Scale bar: 20 μm .
- 17 WNTi (WNT inhibitor); BMPi (BMP inhibitor)

18

19

20 **Fig.3 Simulating of human peri-gastrulation and hPGC competency**

- 21 **a.** Schematics showing progressive gain and loss of competency for hPGCs.
- 22 **b.** Induction of hPGCs (% NT/AP +ve cells) in day 4-5 embryoids.
- 23 **c.** Induction of definitive endoderm (DE: (% CXCR4 +ve cells)) at 12h–24h of
- 24 during ME differentiation.

- d.** Immunostaining of hPGCs induced from Pre-ME(12h) and of DE from ME(24h). Dashed lines: SOX17/OCT4 +ve hPGCs. Scale bar: 50 μ m.
- e.** Gene expression (RT-qPCR) changes during ME induction.
- f.** Induction of hPGCs (%NANOS3-tdTomato/AP +ve cells) from Pre-ME(12h) or ME(24h). Pre-ME are competent for hPGCs in response cytokines or SOX17, but ME are not.
- g.** Immunostaining of day4 embryoids from Pre-ME(12h) or ME(24h). SOX17 in Pre-ME induced OCT4/BLIMP1 +ve hPGCs (dashed line), but in ME, it induced DE (BLIMP1/FOXA2 +ve) cells. Scale bar: 50 μ m.
- Fig.4 Induction of hPGCs by SOX17-BLIMP1 and combined representation of hPGCs and pPGCs specification**
- a.** Induction of hPGCs by transcription factors in Comp-hPSCs: SOX17-BLIMP1 induce hPGCs
- b.** Day1–4 embryoids with NANOS3-tdTomato (NT) reporter respond to ectopic SOX17 and BLIMP1 with or without cytokines.
- c.** Induction of hPGCs (% NT/AP +ve cells) shown in **Fig.4b**.
- d.** t-SNE analysis of RNA-seq data.
- e.** Heat map of representative gene expression includes previous data⁴.
- f.** Day 4 embryoids induced by cytokines. Dashed line indicates positive signals. Arrowheads: OCT4/BLIMP1 +ve hPGC expressing FOXA2. Scale bar: 50 μ m.
- g.** SOX17 and BLIMP1 gene dosage is critical during hPGC specification: BLIMP1 represses SOX17-induced endodermal genes.

- 1 **h.** Representation of human germ cell origin and program based on *in vitro*
- 2 simulations from hPSCs and *in vivo* origin of pPGCs in porcine embryos.
- 3

Extended Data Figure Legends

Extended Data Fig.1 Expression of key germ cell genes in early pPGCs.

- a. Representation of a mouse, pig and human embryos before gastrulation
- b. Sections of Early-PS and PS stage embryo showing SOX17, BLIMP1, NANOG and OCT4. Yellow dashed insets show cells at high magnification and white dashed lines mark SOX17 +ve and/or BLIMP1 -ve cells. Scale bar: 20 μ m.
- c. PS (~E12) stage embryo with a cluster of pPGCs (arrow) with multiple combinations of PGC gene expression (SOX17, BLIMP1, NANOG, TFAP2C, OCT-4, Sda/GM2 and mesoderm gene, T). Arrowheads at the anterior streak point to primitive endoderm (SOX17/BLIMP1+ve and NANOG negative cells. Scale bar: 20 μ m.
- d. Late-PS; (~E12.5-E13.5) embryo with a pPGC cluster (arrow) showing NANOG, SOX17 (split color image of Fig.1e), BLIMP1, and T expression. Arrowheads mark early migratory PGCs in the primitive endoderm. Scale bar: 25 μ m.
- e. E14 embryo stained for SOX17, BLIMP1, and TFAP2C. Yellow dashed insets show cells at high magnification and white dashed lines mark SOX17/BLIMP1 +ve and TFAP2C -ve cells. Scale bar: 20 μ m.
- f. Immunostaining for PRDM14 co stained with Sda/GM2 and SOX17 in E14 (pPGC cluster) embryos and E26 gonads. Arrows point to pPGCs in the gonad. Scale bar: Scale bar: 20 μ m.

Extended Data Fig.2 Proliferation and development of early pPGCs.

- 1 **a.** *OCT4 RNA in situ* hybridization identifies the pPGC cluster (arrow) in the
2 posterior end of ~E13.5-E15.5 embryos. Insets show whole embryos.
- 3 **b.** Wholemout OCT4 IHC of a porcine embryo. Dashed square marks the area
4 shown at higher magnification on the top right. Arrow points to the pPGC cluster.
5 Bottom right: Cross section of the embryo (line in the wholemount image) shows
6 migratory pPGCs (red cells).
- 7 **c.** Number of pPGCs at different stages as indicated.
- 8 **d.** Immunostaining of EdU labelled embryos at the indicated stages with different
9 antibody combinations identifying the PGCs. The pPGC cluster is highlighted
10 with dashed white line. Arrows show SOX17/EdU +ve and SOX17/BLIMP1/EdU
11 +ve cells. Scale Bar: 20 μ m.
- 12 **e.** Immunostained migratory pPGCs (arrows); inset show cells at higher
13 magnification.
- 14 **f.** Immunostained gonadal pPGCs.

15
16
17 **Extended Data Fig.3 Epigenetic reprogramming in pre- and early migratory**
18 **pPGCs, and key germ cell markers in migratory pPGC and cultured porcine**
19 **epiblast.**

- 20 **a.** A cluster of pPGCs (dashed line) at ~E13 stained for TET1 and OCT4. Scale
21 bar: 20 μ m.
- 22 **b.** Serial sections of E14 embryos immunostained for different epigenetic
23 markers combined with BLIMP1, NANOG and SOX17. Dashed lines highlight
24 pPGC clusters. Scale bar: 20 μ m.

1 **c.** Quantification of 5mC and H3M9me2 in embryos of different stages. Numbers
2 of cells analyzed are indicated. (* $p < 0.01$; Mann-Whitney test)).

3 **d.** Serial sections of ~E16 embryos showing migratory pPGCs immunostained
4 for the indicated epigenetic marks. Scale bar: 20 μm .

5 **e.** Triple immunostaining of epiblasts cultured under different conditions. Scale
6 bar: 10 μm .

7
8
9 **Extended Data Fig.4 Characterization of NANOS3-tdTomato (NT) reporter**
10 **hPSC**

11 **a.** Targeting strategy for making NANOS3-tdTomato reporter.

12 **b.** Representative genotyping of targeted clones using genomic DNA.

13 **c.** Conventional (Conv) and PGC-competent (Comp) hPSCs states are
14 reversible; the latter is equivalent to Pre-ME (12h at ME induction). Conv-hPSCs
15 are cultured in Essential 8 medium on vitronectin coated dishes (see **Methods**).
16 Comp-hPSCs are cultured in the hPSC medium containing inhibitor(i)s (GSK3i,
17 ERKi, p38i, JNKi) on MEF (see **Methods**).

18 **d.** NT reporter Conv- and Comp-hPSC, and day 1-4 embryoids induced with or
19 without Cytokines.

20 **e.** FACS pattern and % NT/AP +ve cells shown in **Extended Data Fig. 4d**.

21 **f.** FACS pattern and % NT/AP +ve cells in multiple clones derived from Wis2 or
22 H9 hESC lines.

23 **g.** Immunostaining of day 4 embryoids induced from Pre-ME(12h) or
24 Comp-hPSC by BMP containing cytokines. Scale bar: 50 μm .

1 **h.** Comparison of sensitivity of 2 NANOS3 reporter cell lines. FACS patterns of
 2 day 4 embryoids induced from Comp-hPSC (harboring NANOS3-mCherry
 3 reporter or NANOS3-tdTomato reporter) with or without Cytokines.

4 **i.** Comparison of hPGC induction efficiency derived from Pre-ME(12h) or
 5 Comp-hPSC. Representative images and FACS patterns are shown.

6 **j.** Scatter plot shows % NT/AP +ve cells in indicated condition (n=6). Paired
 7 T-test was used to test for statistical significance (* $p < 0.05$)

8
 9
 10 **Extended Data Fig.5 Characterization of Pre-ME and ME induced from**
 11 **Conv-hPSC**

12 **a.** Immunostaining of Conv-hPSCs during 12–24h ME induction. Scale bar: 50
 13 μm .

14 **b.** Gene expression (RT-qPCR) change during ME induction.

15 **c.** FACS patterns of day 4 embryoids induced from Pre-ME(12h) with cytokines.
 16 Pre-ME was induced with or without GSK3i or Activin A.

17 **d.** FACS patterns of day 4 embryoids induced from Pre-ME(12h) with cytokines.
 18 Pre-ME was induced with or without BMP2 or the inhibitor.

19 **e.** Schematics of DE or lateral mesoderm (LM) differentiation from ME

20 **f.** FACS patterns of day 2 DE (% CXCR4 +ve) and day 1 LM (% PDGFRa +ve)
 21 induced from 24h of ME induction.

22 **g.** Relative induction efficiency of DE or LM from ME induced with or without
 23 BMP2 (DE: n=5, LM: n=6). Paired T-test was used to test for statistical
 24 significance (* $p < 0.05$)

25 **h.** Immunostaining of DE and LM in **Extended Data Fig.5f**. Scale bar: 50 μm .

i. Schematic of spatial-temporal progression from Conv-hPSC to ME and the signaling.

Extended Data Fig.6 Robust induction of cynomolgus monkey PGC (cmPGC) from cells during ME differentiation

a. Schematics of *in vitro* differentiation of cmPSC. The same system was adopted as shown for Conv-hPSC differentiation in **Fig.3**.

b. Bright field Image of undifferentiated cmPSC.

c. Immunostaining of day 2 embryoids induced with Cytokines from cells at 0h (=cmPSC), 12h and 24h during ME differentiation. Dashed lines highlight SOX17/BLIMP1/TFAP2C +ve cmPGCs. Scale bar: 50 µm.

d. Immunostaining of day 2 Pre-ME(12h)-derived embryoids in **Extended Data Fig. 6c** for pluripotency markers. Notably, cmPGCs express SOX17 but not SOX2. In contrast, cmPSC colonies express SOX2 but not SOX17.

e. Immunostaining of day 2 cmDE induced from Pre-ME(12h) and ME(24h). Scale bar: 50 µm.

f. Immunostaining of day1 cmLM induced from ME(24h). ME were induced with or without BMP. Notably, adding BMP during ME differentiation increased the efficiency for FOXF1/HAND1 +ve LM cells, as shown in Conv-hPSC (**Extended Data Fig. 5e-i**)

Scale bar: 50 µm.

Extended Data Fig.7 Chronology of transcription factors expression during hPGC induction

a. Schematic of hPGC induction from Pre-ME(12h).

b. Images of day 2 and 4 embryoids in response to BMP2 alone or BMP2 with LIF, SCF and EGF(=Cytokines). Notably, BMP2 alone can induce hPGC at almost the same efficiency as the full cytokines, but do not survive during extended culture, as shown previously.

c. Immunostaining of embryoids induced with BMP2 alone or BMP2 with LIF, SCF and EGF showing expression of SOX17, BLIMP1 and TFAP2C. Scale bar: 50 μ m.

d. Proportion of SOX17 +ve cells indicated in **Extended Data Fig.7c**.

e. Immunostaining of embryoids induced with BMP2 alone or BMP2 with LIF, SCF and EGF showing expression of SOX17, BLIMP1 and NANOG. Scale bar: 50 μ m.

f. Proportion of SOX17+ve cells in **Extended Data Fig.7e**.

Extended Data Fig.8 Effect of NANOG on hPGC induction, characterization of NANOS3-tdTomato reporter hPSC containing inducible SOX17, BLIMP1 with or without TFAP2C, and similarity between Cytokine- and SOX17/BLIMP1-induced hPGC

a. Represents overexpression of Dex-inducible NANOG transgenes in NT reporter Comp-hPSC.

- 1 **b.** Day4 embryoids following induction of NANOG (by Dex), with or without
2 cytokines as indicated.
- 3 **c.** FACS patterns after induction of hPGCs; NT/AP +ve cells (%) shown in
4 **Extended Data Fig. 8b.**
- 5 **d.** Represents overexpression of Dex-inducible SOX17, Dox-inducible BLIMP1,
6 Shield1(S1)-inducible TFAP2C transgenes in NT reporter Comp-hPSC.
- 7 **e.** Immunostaining of NT reporter Comp-hPSC +iSBT 1 day after induction of
8 SOX17, BLIMP1 and TFAP2C by addition of Dex, Dox or S1. Scale bar: 50 μ m.
- 9 **f.** Immunostaining of NT reporter Comp-hPSC +iSB 1 day after induction of
10 SOX17 or BLIMP1 by addition of Dex or Dox. Scale bar: 50 μ m.
- 11 **g.** Immunostaining of day 2 embryoid induced with or without Dex to induce
12 nuclear localization of SOX17. Notably, accumulation of SOX17 signal is
13 observed in +Dex condition.
- 14 **h.** Changes in gene expression (RT-qPCR) during hPGC induction:
15 Comp-hPSCs control (AP +ve cells); NT +ve hPGCs induced by SOX17/BLIMP1
16 or Cytokines; NT -ve cells in cells exposed to Cytokines.
- 17 **i.** Unsupervised hierarchical clustering (UHC) of gene expression.
- 18 **j.** Gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) of 123 hPGC-specific genes
19 (**Supplementary Table 1**) on the transcriptome of cytokine- and
20 SOX17/BLIMP1-induced hPGCs.
- 21 **k.** Heat map showing expression of epigenetic modifiers related to global DNA
22 demethylation. Same datasets as shown in **Fig. 4e** were used for analysis.

Extended Data Fig.9 Response of SOX17 KO Comp-hPSC to SOX17

a. Overexpression of Dex-inducible SOX17 (iS) in SOX17 KO Comp-hPSC.

b. Gene expression (RT-qPCR) on day 4 of FACS-sorted NANOS3-mCherry (NC)/Alkaline phosphatase (AP) +ve hPGCs by RT-qPCR.

c. FACS analysis of d2 embryoids induced from WT Comp-hPSC, SOX17 KO Comp-hPSC and SOX17KO Comp-hPSC rescued with SOX17GR transgene (iS) (% CXCR4/AP+ cells).

d. FACS pattern of day 2 embryoid induced from NT reporter Comp-hPSC showing AP/CXCR4 +ve cells expressing NT.

e. Represents SOX17 inducible system (iSdd). Expression of SOX17 fused with destabilized domain (DD) can be induced by Doxycycline (Dox); addition of Shield1 (S1) can stabilize SOX17-DD protein.

f. Western blots showing SOX17 expression level in day 5 embryoids from SOX17KO+iSdd Comp-hPSC. Embryoids were induced with Cytokines. To induce SOX17, different concentration of Dox and S1 were added. As controls, NC/AP +ve hPGCs and NC/AP -ve cells from WT Comp-hPSC-derived embryoids induced with Cytokines were used. Histone H3 (H3) was used for internal control.

g. Immunostaining of day 4 embryoids from SOX17KO+iSdd Comp-hPSC. Embryoids from SOX17 KO and WT Comp-hPSC induced with Cytokines were used as controls. Scale bar: 50 μ m.

h. Quantification of immunostaining data in **Extended Data Fig. 9g**. The numbers of OCT4/BLIMP1 +ve hPGCs, FOXA2 +ve endodermal cells and

OCT4/BLIMP1 +ve hPGCs expressing FOXA2 were counted from 3 different embryoids. The proportions of the 3 populations are shown.

i. Expression of SOX17 and BLIMP1 (RT-qPCR) in d4 embryoids in response to different SOX17 dosage.

Extended Data Fig.10 Response of SOX17 KO Comp-hPSC to SOX17 and BLIMP1, and changes in epigenetic modifier expression after overexpression of SOX17/BLIMP1

a. Overexpression of Dex-inducible SOX17 (iS) and Dox-inducible BLIMP1 (iB) in SOX17 KO Comp-hPSC.

b. Immunostaining of Comp-hPSC 1 day after induction of SOX17 (Dex) or BLIMP1 (Dox), or both, and d2 embryoids following Dex-induced SOX17 with endogenous or Dox-induced BLIMP1. Scale bar: 50 μ m.

c. Gene expression (RT-qPCR) in day 4 embryoids following induction by Dex (+SOX17), Dox (+BLIMP1), or Dex+Dox (+SOX17/BLIMP1). Bulk cells of embryoids induced from SOX17 KO and WT Comp-hPSC with Cytokines were used as controls.

d. Upon specification, hPGCs become refractory to Activin or Wnt signaling. Left schematic shows the experimental design. The embryoids were transferred to the medium with or without GSK3i (3 μ M) or ActivinA (100ng/ml) at day 0, 1 or 2 to see the effect on PGC induction. FACS patterns (right) show the induction efficiency of hPGC (%; NT/AP +ve) at day 4.

e. Day4 embryoids induced by cytokines with or without ActivinA or GSK3i.

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Methods

Porcine embryo collection

All the procedures involving animals have been approved by the School of Biosciences Ethics Review Committee, The University of Nottingham. Embryos were collected from crossbred Large White and Landrace sows (2-3 years old) between days 10 and 16 after artificial insemination (AI). Embryos from days 10-16 (embryonic day (E) 10-16; (bilaminar (n=4); Pre-PS (n=7), Early-PS (n=6); PS (n=10), Late-PS (n=13), ~E14 (n=8), ~E16 (n=10)) were flushed from the uterine horns with 30-40 ml warm PBS (supplemented with 1% FCS). Embryos older than E15 were retrieved by cutting the uterus longitudinally from the antimesometrial side and picked with forceps. Embryos at each stage were retrieved from multiple sows. All embryos were grouped by stages and washed with DMEM-F12 (Thermo Fisher Scientific) + 20% knockout serum replacement (KSR: Thermo Fisher Scientific) supplemented with 25 mM HEPES (wash medium, WM) and transported to the laboratory in a portable incubator at 38.5°C.

Immunohistochemistry of porcine embryos and gonads

Embryos were processed as previously described³¹. Briefly, embryos and gonads were fixed in 2.5% paraformaldehyde (PFA) in PBS overnight (ON) at 4°C and transferred to methanol at -20°C for long term storage. For less advanced embryos (E9.5-10.5) 2% agarose blocks were made before embedding in wax. Agarose blocks were then trimmed and dehydrated with

1 increasing concentrations of ethanol (70%, 90% and 100%) for 2 h each step.
2 After dehydration, blocks were processed in xylene followed by hot paraffin wax
3 for 2 h and then cooled down in a metal mold. E14-15 embryos and gonads were
4 dehydrated, embedded and processed as described above. All paraffin blocks
5 were cut into 4 μ m thick sections and mounted onto SuperFrost plus slides.
6 Sections were air dried ON and immunohistochemistry was conducted
7 subsequently. For cryo-sections, fixed embryos were incubated in 30%
8 sucrose/PBS ON at 4°C prior to mounting in OCT compound. Cryo-sections
9 were cut at 6 μ m onto Superfrost plus glass slides. Sections were left to air dry
10 for 1-2 h before IF. Unused slides were kept at -80°C in air tight containers.

13 **Immunofluorescence staining of porcine embryos**

14 Sections were dewaxed with xylene for 30 min and rehydrated with decreasing
15 concentrations of ethanol (100%, 90% and 70%) and transferred to PBS for 15
16 min. Antigen retrieval was then performed by boiling the slides in 0.01M Citrate
17 Buffer (PH 6.0) for 10 min. Sections were permeabilized with 1% Triton-X100 in
18 PBS for 15 min. Triton-X100 was washed three times for 5 min each, and
19 blocking solution (PBS supplemented with 5% BSA or 10% Donkey serum/5%
20 BSA/PBS) was added for 1-1.5 h. After blocking, sections were incubated with
21 the desired primary antibody (see **Supplementary Table 2**) ON at 4°C in a
22 humidified chamber. Slides were then washed three times with 0.1%
23 Tween-20/PBS. Finally slides were incubated with fluorescent (TRITC, Cy3
24 Alexa Fluorophore 488, 555, 568 and/or 647; eBioscience, Abcam, Thermo

Fisher Scientific)-conjugated secondary antibodies for 40 min at room temperature (RT). Slides were mounted with Fluoroshield with DAPI (Sigma) and sealed with nail varnish. Slides were kept at -20 °C until observed.

Porcine epiblast cultures and quantification of PGC induction

Embryos collected 11.5 days post AI were dissected under a dissecting microscope as described previously³². Trophectoderm and primitive endoderm were carefully removed with forceps and pure epiblasts were placed in pre-incubated in GK15 medium supplemented with individual inhibitors (i), including 10 µM WNTi (IWR-1-endo, Selleckchem), and 100 nM BMPi (LDN193189, Sigma,). GK15 medium is composed of GMEM (Thermo Fisher Scientific) supplemented with 15% KSR, 0.1 mM 2-mercaptoethanol (Thermo Fisher Scientific), 0.1 mM NEAA (Thermo Fisher Scientific), 1 mM sodium pyruvate (Sigma), 100 U/ml Penicillin- 0.1 mg/ml Streptomycin (Sigma), and 2 mM L-Glutamine (Sigma). After 30 min incubation with the inhibitors, cytokines were supplemented to the final concentration of 500 ng/ml BMP4 (R&D systems), 1mg/ml hLIF (Peprotech) and 200 ng/ml SCF (R&D systems). Epiblasts collected from two independent batches of animals and from 4 animals each time were grouped by stage of development (bilaminar, Pre-PS, Early-PS) and randomly distributed into three treatment groups. After 64 h incubation in a low oxygen incubator at 38.5°C they were fixed in 2.5% PFA at 4°C ON. After washing in PBS they were incubated in 30% sucrose/0.0025% sodium azide at 4°C ON and then mounted in OCT compound as described above. IF was

carried out with the antibodies listed in **Supplementary Table 2** with fluorescent-conjugated secondary antibodies.

All immunostained sections of single epiblasts were imaged at 100x magnification at antibody-specific wavelengths. NANOG-positive cells could be split into two categories; high expression and lower expression, based on immunofluorescence intensity. Image acquisition was performed using SimplePCI capture software and the Cell Counter application of Fiji was used to mark protein of interest and NANOG-high cells. Separate fluorophore images were overlaid and cells marked as positive for all three proteins of interest were counted. Only robustly stained cells were considered positive. No statistical methods were used to predetermine sample size. Mann-Whitney test was used to test for significance.

Wholemout *In situ* hybridization

RNA *in situ* hybridization (ISH) was carried out as previously described¹⁵. Briefly, embryos (NP (n=2); 3-5S (n=3); 6-8S (n=3)) were rehydrated in decreasing concentrations of methanol and then washed in PBS-T (PBS + 0.1% Tween-20). Next, embryos were equilibrated in (1:1) PBST:Hybridisation buffer (HB: Formamide: 50%, 2xSSC (pH5), EDTA (5mM, pH8), 0.05 mg/ml Yeast RNA, 0.2% Tween20, 0.5% CHAPS, 0.1 mg/ml Heparin) for at least 10 min, and then transferred to HB before incubating at hybridisation temperature (HT) for a minimum of 2 h. After incubation, HB containing pig OCT4 probe was added and incubated ON. The following day the probe was removed and embryos were

1 washed 3-5 times with wash buffer (WB: 50% Formamide, 1xSSC (pH5), 0.1%
2 Tween20) at HT, and then equilibrated with (1:1) WB:MABT solution (MABT
3 solution: 100 mM Maleic acid, 150 mM NaCl, 0.005% Tween 20) before
4 washing with MABT solution at RT. The embryos were then blocked with MABT
5 and of 2% blocking reagent (Roche) for 1 h followed by blocking solution with
6 MABT, 2% blocking reagent and 10% normal goat serum for at least 2 h. The
7 blocking solution was then replaced with a 1:2000 dilution of anti-Dig-AP Fab
8 fragments (Roche) and incubated overnight with gentle agitation at 4°C.
9 Embryos were rinsed in MABT several times before the development step with
10 NBT/BCIP. After color reaction embryos were washed with 5xTBST (TBST: 0.7
11 M NaCl, 0.01 M KCl, 0.125 M Tris (pH7.5), 0.5% Tween20) solution. The colour
12 reaction was repeated until signal was detected. Once the colour reaction was
13 satisfactory, the embryos were re-fixed with 4% PFA for 1 h, rinsed in PBST and
14 observed under a microscope.

17 **EdU labelling**

18 Embryos collected (n=7) were rinsed in WM before 6 h incubation in 10 uM EdU
19 at 38.5°C. After rinsing the embryos were fixed in 4% PFA for 2 h and then
20 transferred to 1% PFA for long term storage. Embryos were processed for
21 immunohistochemistry as described above, except that the EdU staining
22 protocol was performed following manufacturer instruction (Click-iT EdU,
23 Invitrogen) prior to addition of primary antibodies used for co-labelling.

Cell culture

NANOS3-mCherry hPSC, SOX17KO hPSC, SOX17KO+iS hPSC lines were established previously⁴. NANOS3-tdTomato hPSC line was newly generated by gene targeting (See **Vector construction and gene Introduction**). A cynomolgus monkey PSC (cmPSC) line (MF12 embryonic stem cells (ESCs)) is kindly gifted from E. Curnow, Washington National Primate Research Centre.

Undifferentiated Conv-hPSC were maintained on vitronectin (Thermo Fisher Scientific)-coated plate in Essential 8 medium³³ (Thermo Fisher Scientific) according to manufacturer's protocol. Cells were passed every 3-5 days using 0.5 mM EDTA/PBS without breaking cell clumps.

Undifferentiated Comp-hPSC were maintained on Mitomycin-C treated or irradiated mouse embryonic fibroblast (MEF) (purchased from MTI-GlobalStem or prepared in house) in knockout DMEM (Thermo Fisher Scientific) supplemented with 20% KSR, 0.1 mM NEAA, 0.1 mM 2-mercaptoethanol, 100 U/ml Penicillin- 0.1 mg/ml Streptomycin, 2 mM L-Glutamine, 20 ng/ml human LIF (Stem Cell Institute, university of Cambridge (SCI)), 8 ng/ml bFGF (SCI), 1 ng/ml TGF β 1 (Peprotech), 3 μ M GSK3i (CHIR99021, Miltenyi Biotec), 1 μ M ERKi (PD0325901, Miltenyi Biotec), 5 μ M p38i (SB203580, TOCRIS bioscience), and 5 μ M JNKi (SP600125, TOCRIS bioscience), as reported^{4,34}. Cells were passed every 2-4 days using TrypLE express or 0.25% trypsin/EDTA (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Before harvesting Comp-PSC on MEF, 10 μ M of ROCKi (Y-27632, TOCRIS bioscience) was added into the medium.

Undifferentiated cmPSC were maintained on Mitomycin-C treated or irradiated MEF in DMEM/F-12 (Thermo Fisher Scientific) supplemented with 20% KSR, 0.1 mM NEAA, 0.1 mM 2-mercaptoethanol, 100 U/ml Penicillin- 0.1 mg/ml Streptomycin, 2 mM L-Glutamine, 20 ng/ml bFGF (SCI). Before differentiation, cmPSC were maintained on MEF in Essential 8 medium supplemented with 5% KSR, 2.5 μ M WNTi (IWR-1; Tocris) at least for 2 passage. Cells were passed every 3-4 days using 0.25% trypsin/EDTA (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Before harvesting cmPSC on MEF, 10 μ M of ROCKi (Y-27632, TOCRIS bioscience) was added into the medium.

For ME induction and subsequent DE/LM induction, we optimized published protocol^{18,35,36} with slight modification. For the basal medium, we used aRB27 medium which is composed of Advanced RPMI 1640 Medium (Thermo Fisher Scientific) supplemented with 1% B27 supplement (Thermo Fisher Scientific), 0.1 mM NEAA, 100 U/ml Penicillin- 0.1 mg/ml Streptomycin, 2 mM L-Glutamine. For ME induction, trypsinized Conv-hPSC were seeded on vitronectin-coated dish at 200,000 cells/well in 12 well plate and cultured in ME induction medium for 6-36 h as indicated in the figures. ME induction medium was composed of aRB27 medium supplemental with 100 ng/ml Activin-A (SCI), 3 μ M GSK3i and 10 μ M of ROCKi. For DE induction, ME induction medium was replaced to DE induction medium after washing with PBS once and cells were cultured for further 2-3 days. DE induction medium was composed of aRB27 medium supplemented with 100 ng/ml Activin-A and 0.5 μ M BMPi (sigma). For LM induction, ME induction medium was replaced to LM induction medium after washing with PBS once and cells were cultured for further 1 day. LM induction

medium was composed of aRB27 medium supplemented with 100 ng/ml BMP2 (SCI), 2.5 μ M WNTi (IWR-1) and 10 μ M TGF β i (SB 431542; Tocris) .

Embryoids were formed according to previous report⁴. Briefly, Conv- or Comp-hPSCs, Pre-ME or ME were trypsinized into single cells and harvested into Corning® Costar® Ultra-Low attachment multiwell 96 well plate (Sigma) or PrimeSurface 96V plate (S-BIO) at 4000 cells/well in GK15 medium or aRB27 medium. To improve the cell aggregation, in some experiments, we added 0.25% (v/v) poly-vinyl alcohol (sigma) in the basal medium, according to published protocol³⁷. For hPGC induction with Cytokines, 500 ng/ml BMP4 or BMP2 (SCI), 10 ng/ml human LIF (SCI), 100 ng/ml SCF, 50 ng/ml EGF (R&D Systems), and 10 μ M ROCKi were added to GK15 medium or aRB27 medium. Notably, an use of aRB27 medium for the basal medium improved the efficiency of hPGC induction, especially, when we used the Pre-ME cells (see **Extended Data Fig. 4i,j**).

For induction of exogenous transgenes, 100 uM Dexamethasone (Sigma), 0.5 ug/ml Doxycycline (Sigma) and/or 0.5 uM Shiled-1 (Clontech) were added to the medium.

Vector construction and gene introduction

For construction of *NANOS3-tdTomato* knock-in targeting vector, 5' and 3' arms amplified from *NANOS3-mCherry* knock-in targeting vector⁴, *rox-PGK-Puro Δ tk-rox* amplified from *pL1L2-PGKpuro Δ tk* (a kind gift from SCI), *MC1*-promoter driven *DTA* cassette amplified from *pMC1-DTA*, were cloned into

pBluescript KS(+) (Stratagene) with an in-fusion HD cloning kit (Takara Bio). For efficient gene targeting, we used the CRISPR/Cas9 system. Guide RNAs targeting around the stop codon sequence of NANOS3 genes (5'-caccgAGCCTCCTAGGTGGACATGG-3', 5'-aaacCCATGTCCACCTAGGAGGCTc-3') were cloned into pX330 (Addgene) or eSpCas9(1.1) (Addgene). For construction of *pCAG-Dre-IRES-Hygromycin*, *puromycin resistance gene* in *pCAGGS-Dre-IRES-Puro* was replaced to *hygromycin resistance gene*. For construction of Dox/Shield-1 inducible system, SOX17 cDNA without stop codon amplified from cDNA of hPGC and *Destabilized-domain* amplified from pBMN YFP-FKBP (Addgene) were cloned into PiggyBAC vector used previously³⁸. For construction of Dox-inducible system, *Tet3G* amplified from *pCMV-Tet3G* (Clontech) was cloned into PiggyBAC vector which contains CAG-promoter and IRES- neomycin-resistance gene. *TRE3G* cassette amplified from *pTRE3G* (Clontech), human *BLIMP1* cDNA amplified from TRE-Tight BLIMP1-EGFP³⁸, human *NANOG* cDNA amplified from *pEP4-E02S-CK2M-EN2L* (Addgene) and human *TFAP2C* cDNA amplified from hPGC were cloned into PiggyBAC vector. All fragments were amplified by PCR using PrimeSTAR MAX or PrimeSTAR GXL DNA polymerase (Takara Bio) according to the manufacturer's protocol.

For gene targeting of NANOS3-tdTomato reporter, WIS2 male hESC and H9 female hESC lines were used. For the gene targeting method, electroporation or lipofection was carried out as described before⁴. In brief, for electroporation, 1~5 x 10⁶ Comp-hPSCs suspended in PBS were mixed with targeting vector and CRISPR/Cas9 plasmid was transferred to a Gene Pulser cuvette (Bio-Rad).

1 Electroporation was carried out using Gene Pulser equipment (Bio-Rad). For
 2 lipofection, reverse transfection was carried out. 2×10^5 Comp-hPSCs were
 3 suspended in 100-200 μ l of Opti-MEM containing targeting vector,
 4 CRISPR/Cas9 plasmid and lipofectamine 2000 (Thermo scientific) complex, and
 5 left them for 5 min at room temperature. After electroporation or lipofection,
 6 PSCs were seeded onto 4 drug resistant (DR4) MEF (GlobalStem or SCI) and
 7 48 h later, 0.5ug/ml puromycin (Sigma) was added to the culture medium for
 8 selection. After the selection, puromycin resistant hPSC colonies were picked up
 9 and judged correct targeting by PCR using following primers (Primer F1;
 10 5'-GGGGCCAGTCTAACTAGGTGTG-3', Primer R1;
 11 5'-GGTCTTCCTGGAAATCCAGCCG-3', Primer R2; 5'-
 12 TGCCGGTGCCATGCCCCAGGAACA-3' see **Extended Data Fig. 4a, b**). The
 13 targeted clones were expanded and then used for excision of *Rox*-flanked
 14 *PGK-Puro Δ tk* by transient transfection of *pCAG-Dre-IH*. After selection with 25
 15 ug/ml hygromycin B and subsequently with 0.2 uM FIAU, colonies were picked
 16 up and judged the excision by adding puromycin or PCR using following primers
 17 (Primer F2; 5'-CCGTCCCATGCACGTCTTTATC-3', Primer F3;
 18 5'-GAGGGCAGAGGAAGTCTGCTAACA-3', Primer R3; 5'-
 19 GGTCTTCCTGGAAATCCAGCCG-3' see **Extended Data Fig. 4a, b**). In the
 20 representative clone derived from Wis2 hESC used in this study, G-banding
 21 karyotype analysis was performed at Medical Genetics Laboratories, Cambridge
 22 University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust following their standard protocols,
 23 and the normal karyotypes were confirmed (20 out of 20 cells).. All clones
 24 showed correlation of NANOS3-tdTomato and TNAP expression by FACS

analysis (representatives are shown in **Extended Data Fig. 4d-f**). We also confirmed NANOS3-tdTomato +ve cells are specifically expressing the other PGC markers by immunostaining (**Extended Data Fig. 4g**). Notably, fluorescence of NANOS-tdTomato was brighter than NANOS3-mCherry which we made in previous report⁴ (**Extended Data Fig. 4h**).

For gene introduction using PiggyBAC system, reverse transfection was carried out. 2 x 10⁵ SOX17 KO Comp-hPSCs, NANOS3-tdTomato Comp-hPSCs were suspended in 100-200 μ l of Opti-MEM containing plasmids and lipofectamine 2000 (Thermo scientific) complex, and left them for 5 min at room temperature. The cells were seeded on DR4 MEF at several different concentrations, and then 48 h later, drugs for selection were added to the culture medium.

Quantitative reverse transcription PCR (RT-qPCR)

Total RNA was extracted using PicoPure® RNA Isolation Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and cDNA was synthesized using QuantiTect Reverse Transcription Kit (QIAGEN) according to manufacturer's protocols. RT-qPCR were performed and analyzed as described previously³⁹ and the primers sequences used in the paper are listed in **Supplementary Table 3**. Values normalized to GAPDH and relative to control samples (Comp-hPSC or hPGC) are shown in the figures. Error bars are mean \pm SD from technical triplicate with two experiments.

Immunofluorescence staining of cells and cryo-section of embryoids

Cells were cultured on μ -Slide 8 well (ibidi) and fixed in 4% PFA for 10 min at room temperature. Embryoids were fixed in 4% PFA for 2-4 h or ON at 4°C and embedded in OCT compound for frozen sections. Each sample was incubated with primary antibodies for 1-2 h at RT or ON at cold room and with fluorescent-conjugated secondary antibodies for 1 h at RT. Antibodies used here are listed on **Supplementary Table 2**. After antibody treatment, samples were stained with DAPI (Sigma) to mark nuclei and were observed under confocal laser scanning microscopy.

Flow cytometry analysis

PSCs, Embryoids, DE and LM were trypsinized with 0.25% trypsin/EDTA at 37°C for 5-15 min and were stained with Alexa-488 or 647 conjugated anti-TNAP antibody (BD Bioscience), PerCP-Cy5.5 conjugated anti-CXCR4 antibody (Biolegend), PE-Cy7 conjugated anti-PDGFR α antibody (Biolegend) and/or Alexa-647 conjugated anti-CD38 antibody and subjected to FACS LSR Fortessa cytometry (BD Bioscience). FACS data were analyzed by Flowjo software.

Western blot analysis

Western blot analysis was carried out as described before⁴. Briefly, whole-cell extracts were prepared by day 4 embryoids in lysis buffer composed of 50mM Tris-HCl (pH7.5), 0.15M NaCl, 0.1% SDS, 1% Triton X-100, 1% Sodium

deoxycholate and cOmplete mini EDTA free (Roche Applied Science, Penzberg, Germany). After electrophoresis, proteins were transferred to nitrocellulose membranes. Membranes were incubated in Western Blocking Reagent (Roche Applied Science) and treated with antibodies. Primary antibodies against SOX17 (goat IgG; R&D systems, see **Supplementary Table 2**), and H3 (rabbit IgG; Abcam ab1791) were used. Horseradish peroxidase-conjugated secondary antibodies against goat or mouse IgG were added (Dako, Life technologies). After antibody treatment, blots were developed using ECL Western Blotting Detection System (GE Healthcare).

Preparation of RNA-sequencing (RNA-seq) libraries

Total RNA (5 ng) was reverse transcribed and amplified into cDNA using Ovation RNA-Seq System V2 (Nugen). Amplified cDNA was sonicated into 250 bp by Covaris S220 Focused-ultrasonicators. Subsequently, RNASeq library was generated with 500 ng of fragmented cDNA using Ovation Rapid DR Multiplex System (Nugen). Library was quantified by qPCR using KAPA Library Quantification Kit (Kapa Biosystems). Libraries were subjected to single-end 50 bp sequencing on HiSeq 2500 sequencing system (Illumina). Every 4 indexed libraries were multiplexed to one lane of a flowcell, resulting in >40 millions single end reads per sample

Bioinformatics analysis

Adapter-and quality-trimmed RNA-seq reads were mapped to the human reference genomes (UCSC GRCh37/hg19) using *TopHat2* (<http://ccb.jhu.edu/software/tophat>, version: 2.0.13) guided by ENSEMBL 83 gene models. Raw counts per transcripts were obtained using featureCounts, only the longest transcript per gene was kept. Replicates were evaluated, raw counts were normalized, and the differential expression of transcripts was statistically evaluated by the R Bioconductor *DESeq2* package (www.bioconductor.org). Expression-normalized transcript counts were further normalized by transcript length (per kB). Transcript annotations in all bioinformatics analyses were based on ENSEMBL (Release 83) considering protein coding, long-noncoding RNA and processed transcripts. Hierarchical clustering was performed with the *R hclust* function using the Ward's method. Principal components were computed by singular value decomposition with the *R princomp* functioned on scaled DESeq-normalized expression levels. Only the 80% most highly expressed transcripts were used for clustering and principal component analysis. t-statistic Stochastic Neighbor Embedding (t-SNE) analysis was performed using R Rtsne package with default parameters and "perplexity = 3". Gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) was performed with the R phenoTest package on RNAseq data ($\log_2(\text{normalized counts})$). hPGC-specific genes were defined as follows: (1) upregulated in week 7 male hPGC over gonadal somatic cells ($\log_2(\text{fold change}) > 3$ and adjusted p value < 0.05); and (2) upregulated in d4 hPGC+Cy over comp-hPSC in our previous study⁴; and (3) upregulated in week 7 male hPGC over comp-hPSC.

Data availability

RNA-seq data have been deposited in Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) under accession number GSE85378. All other data are included within the paper, source data and Supplementary Information.

References for Methods

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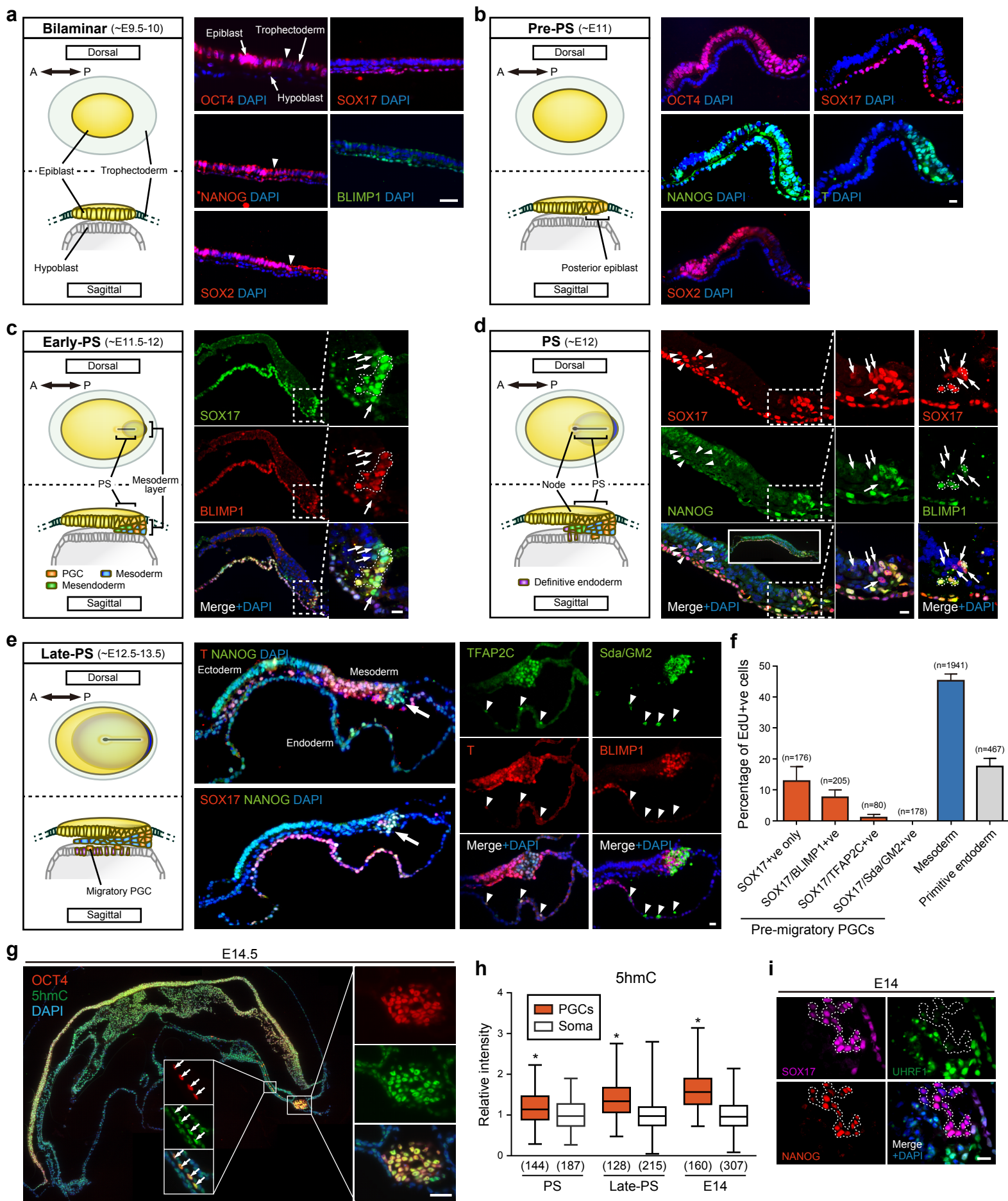


Figure 1

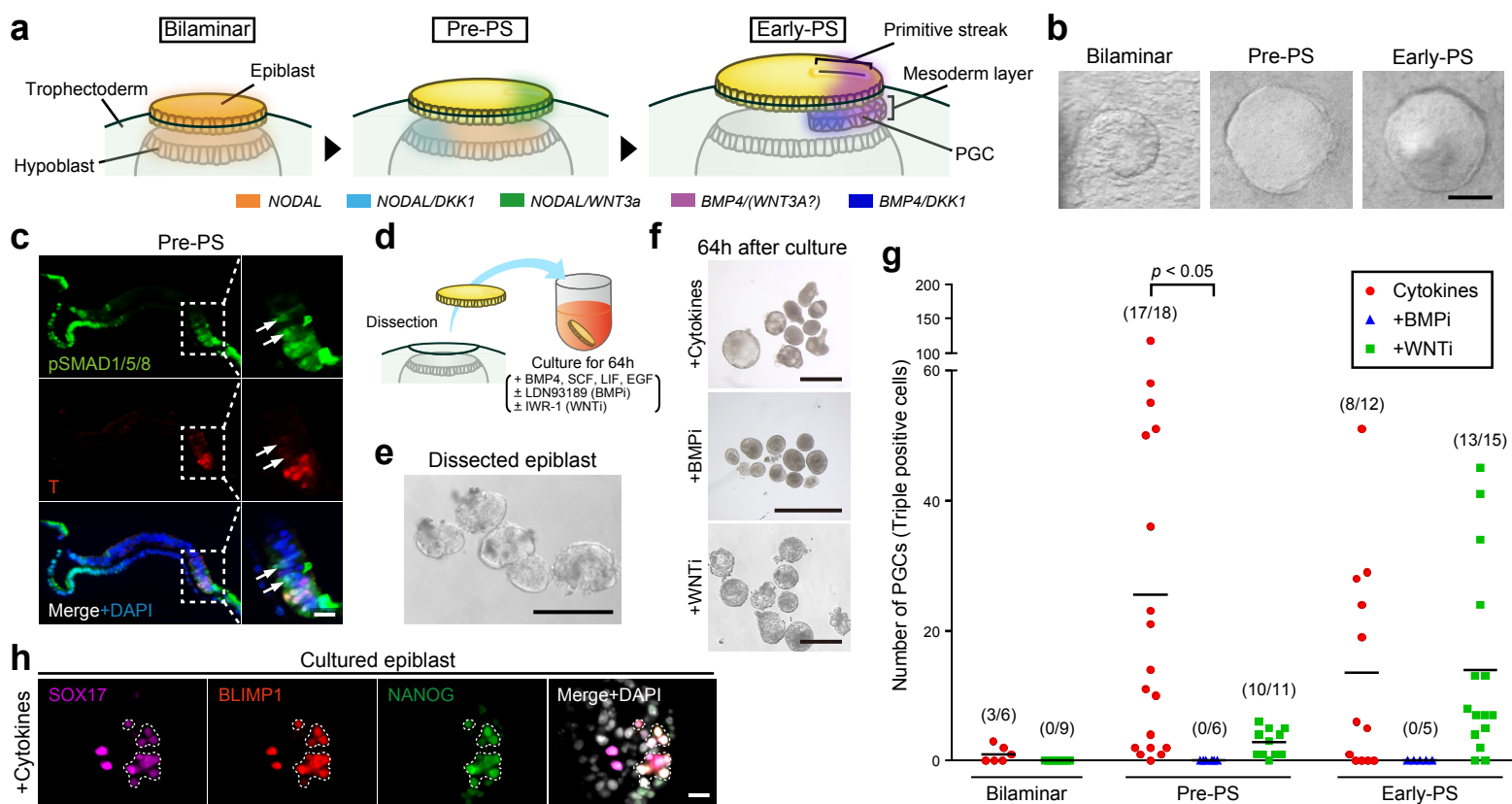
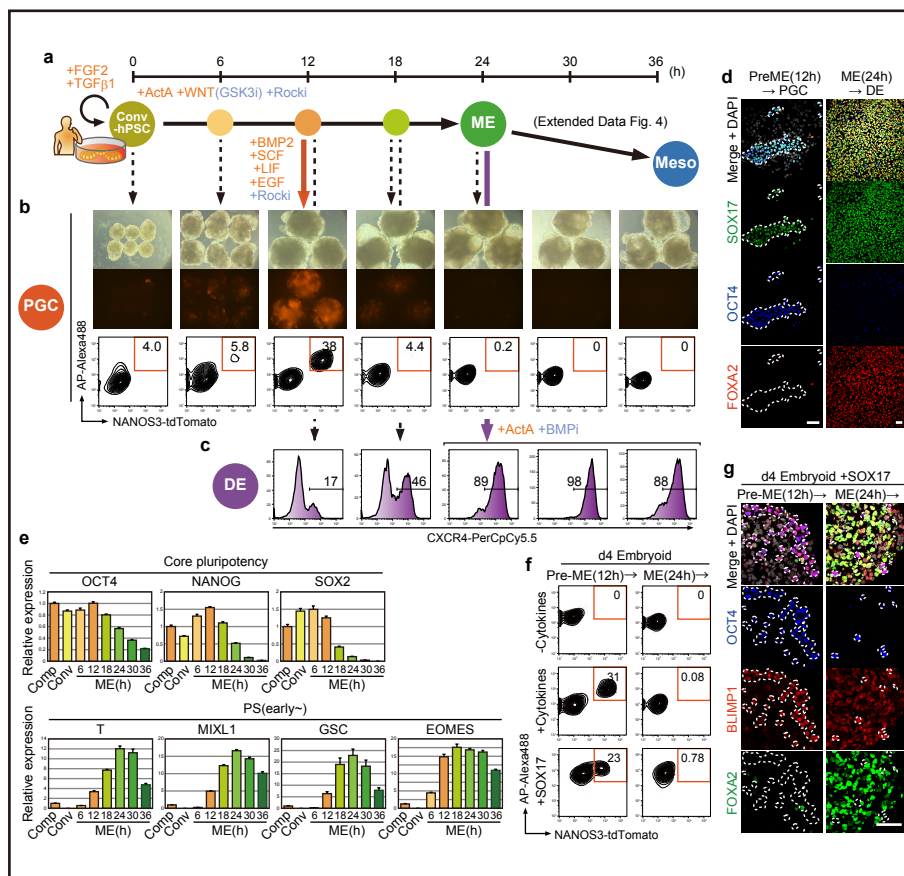
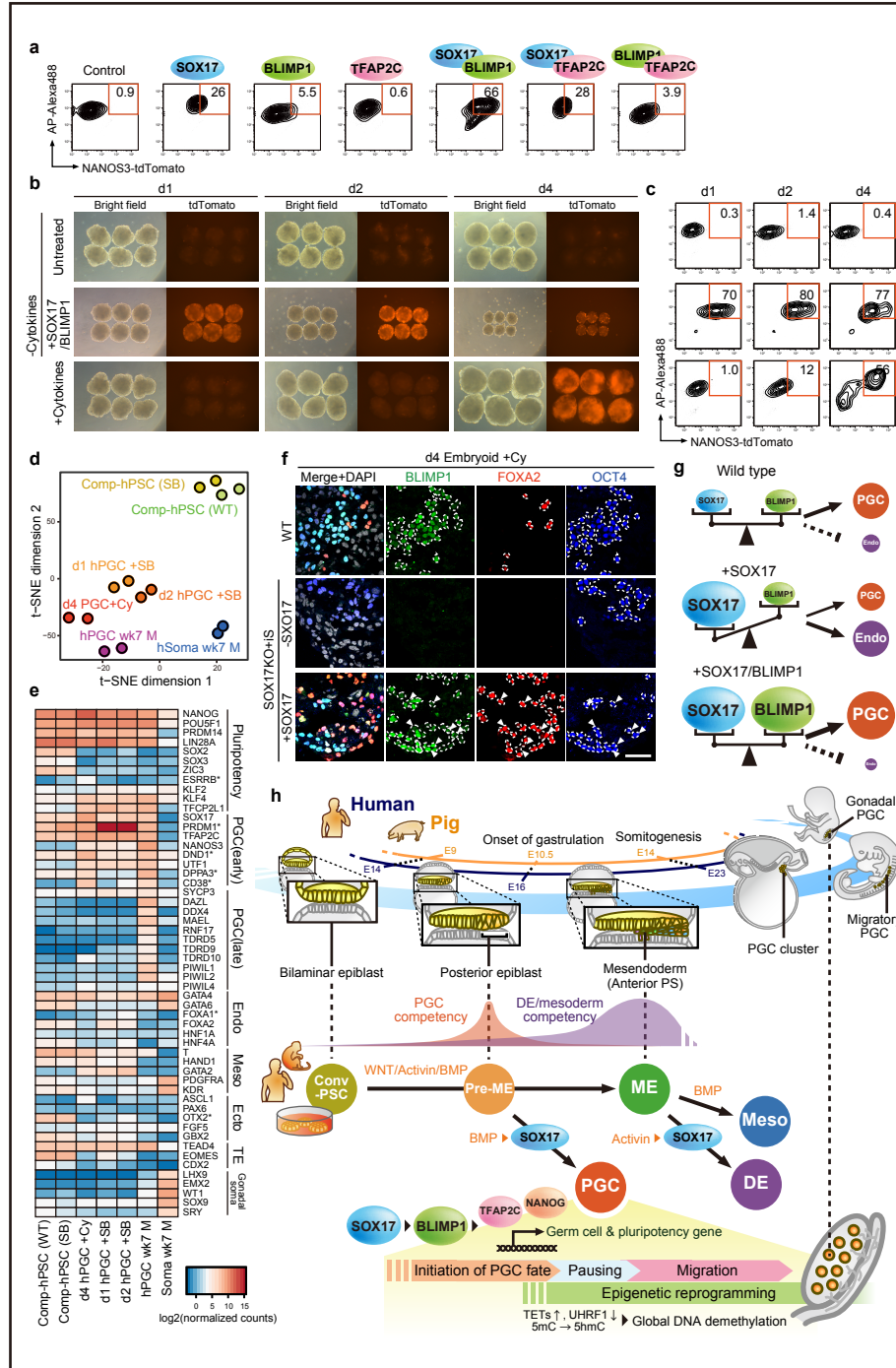
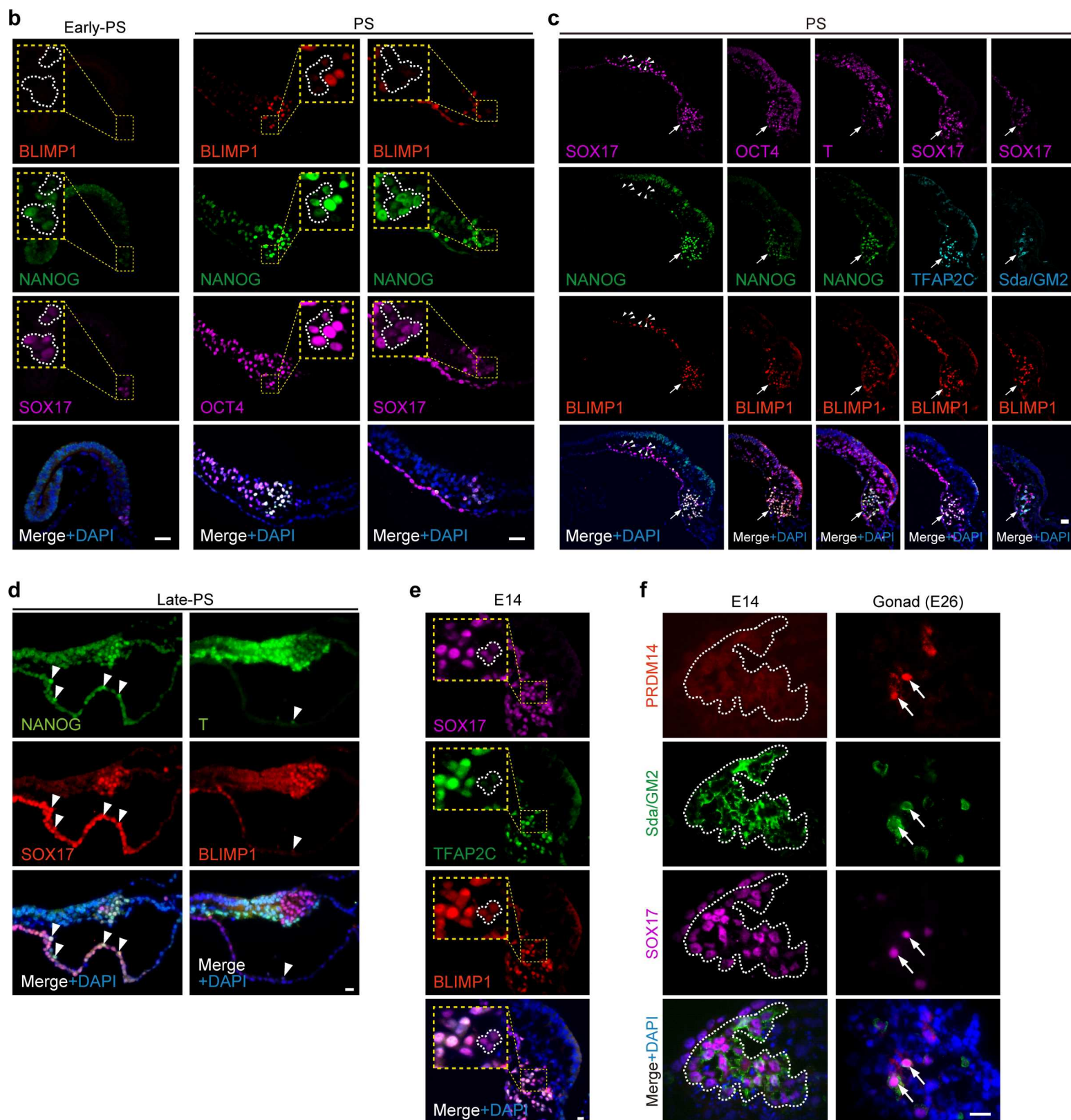
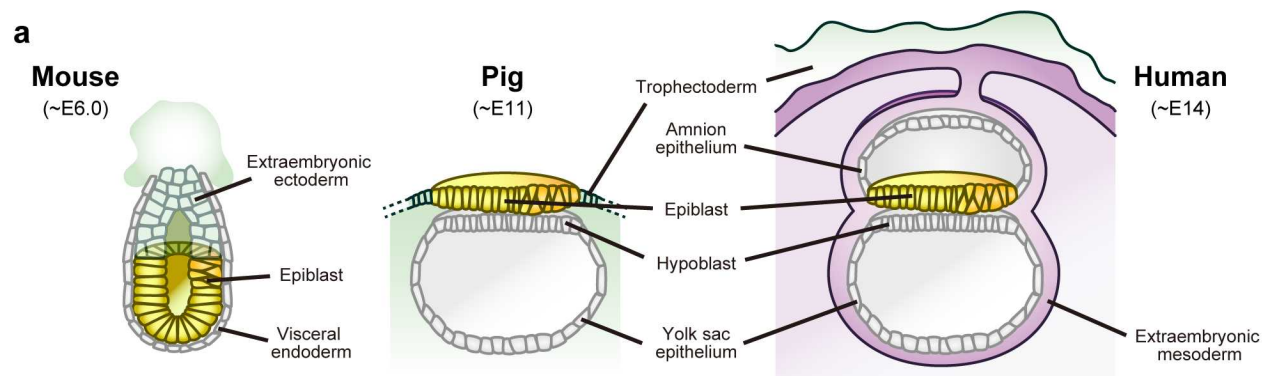


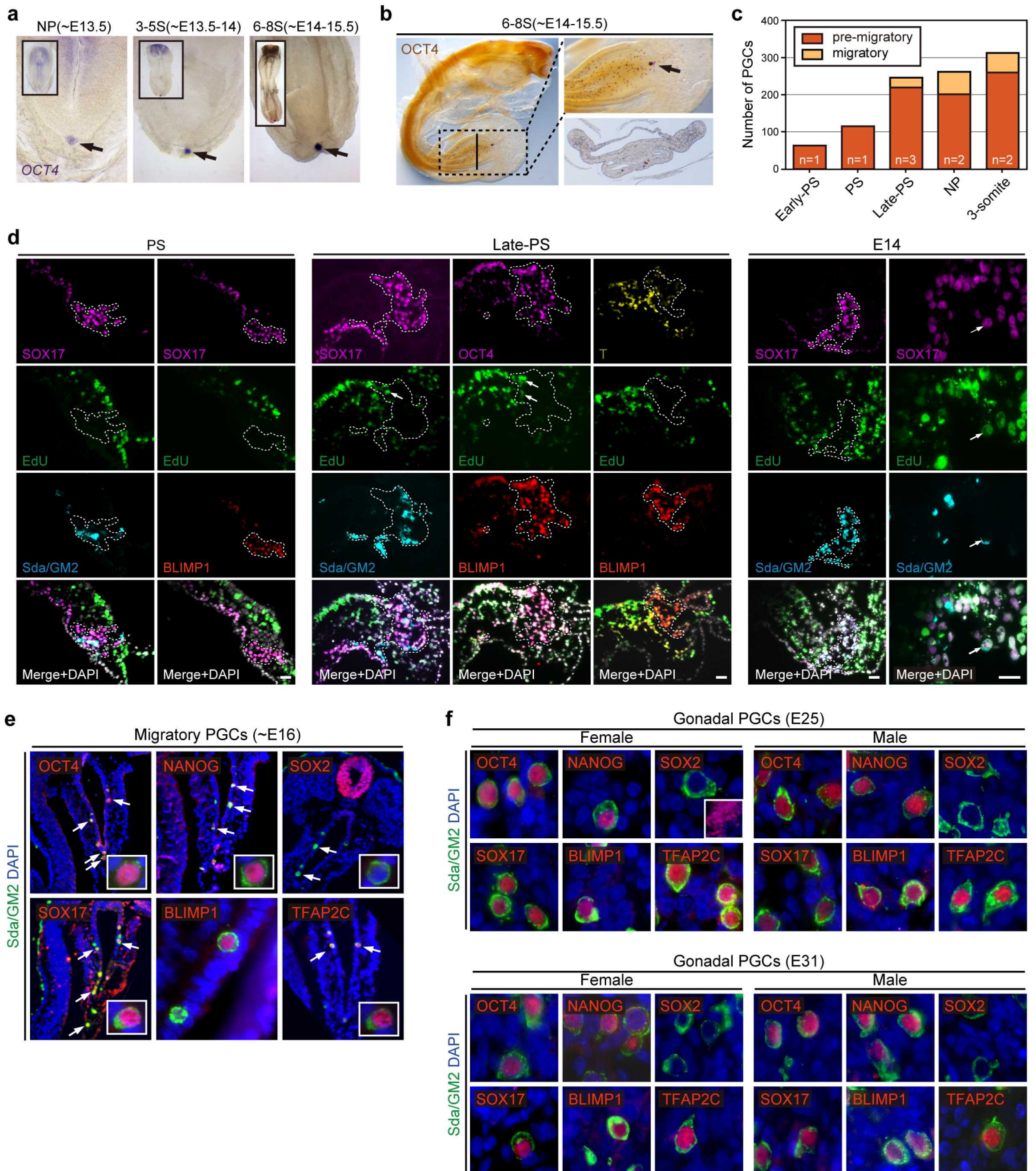
Figure 2



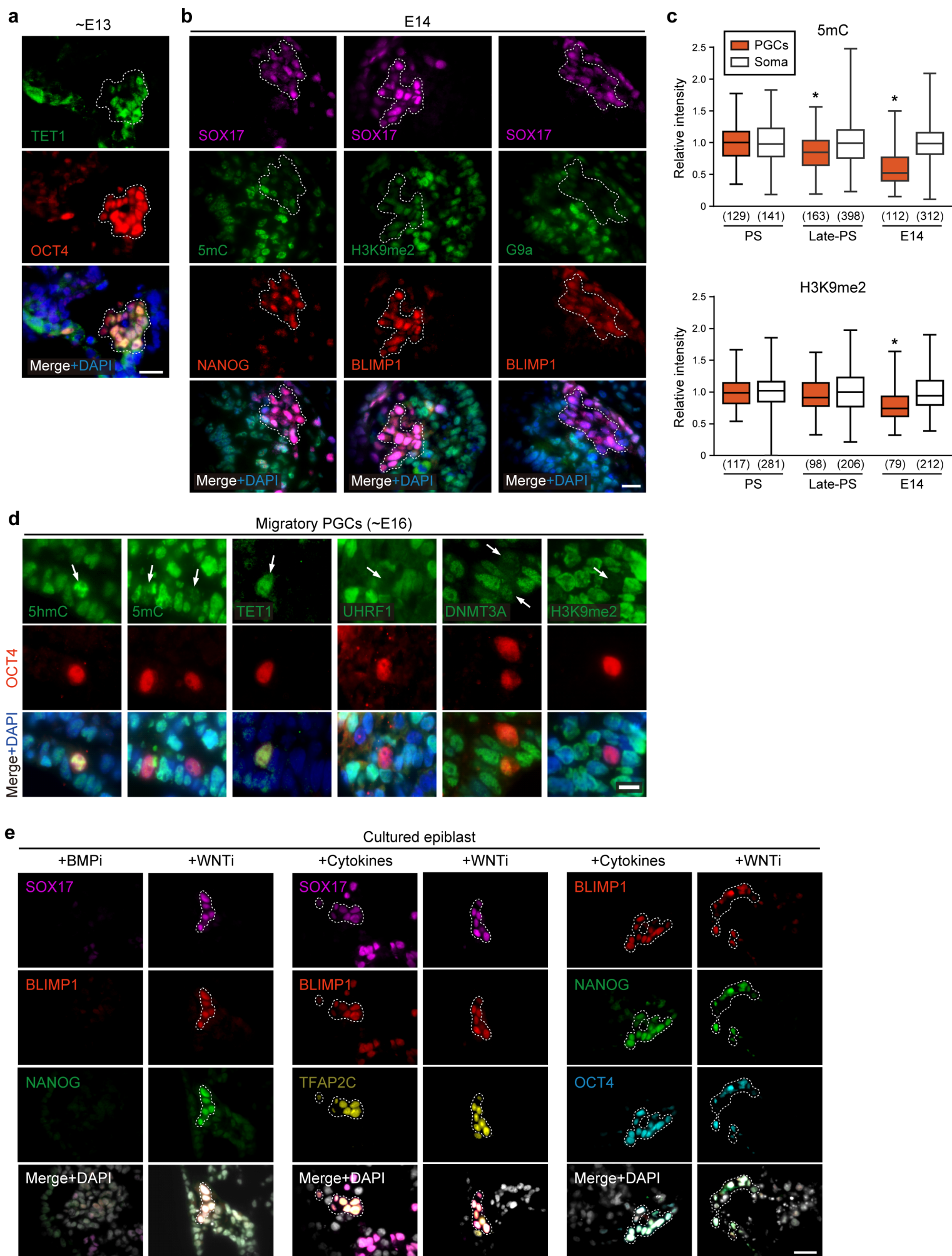




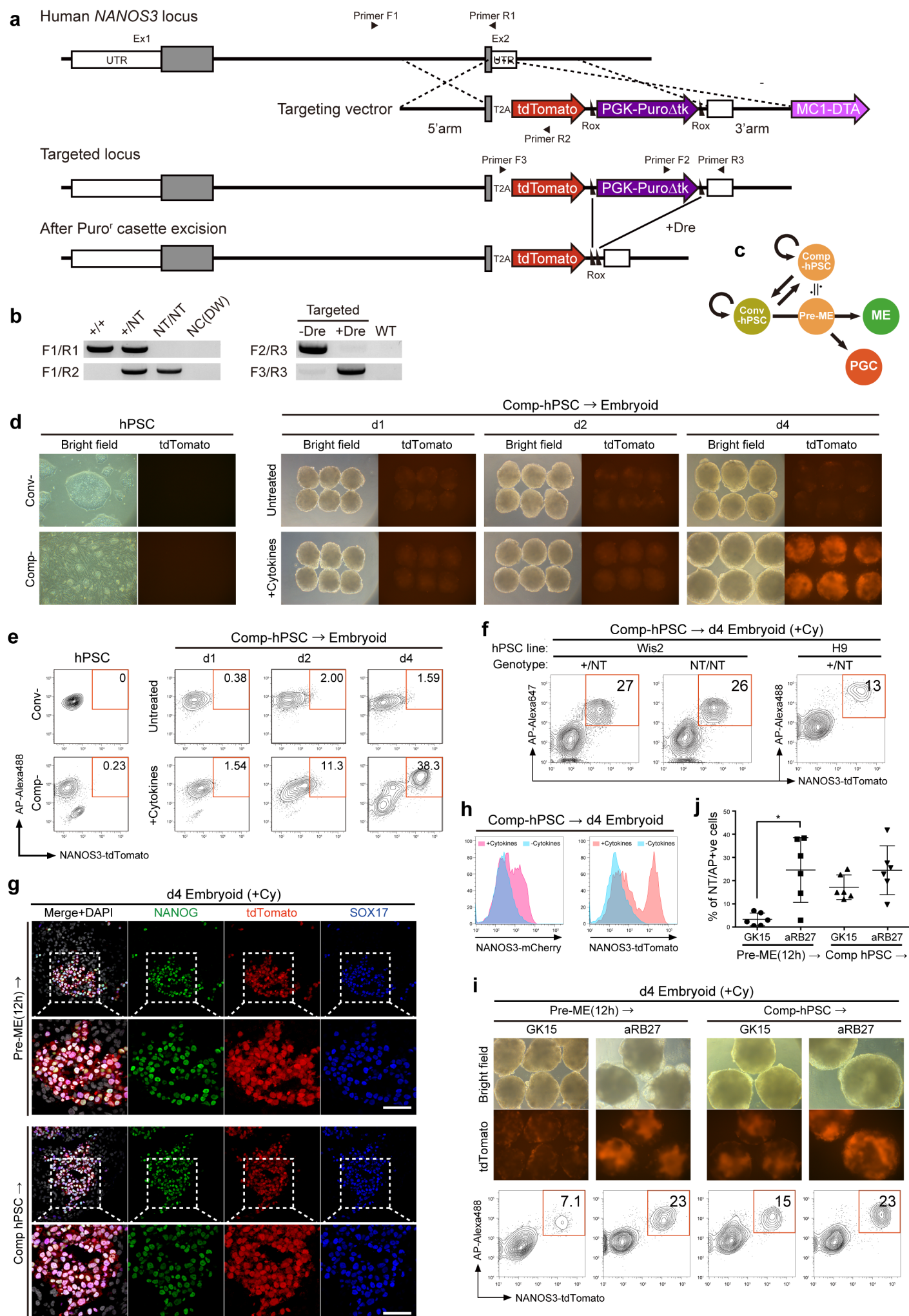
Extended Data Fig. 1



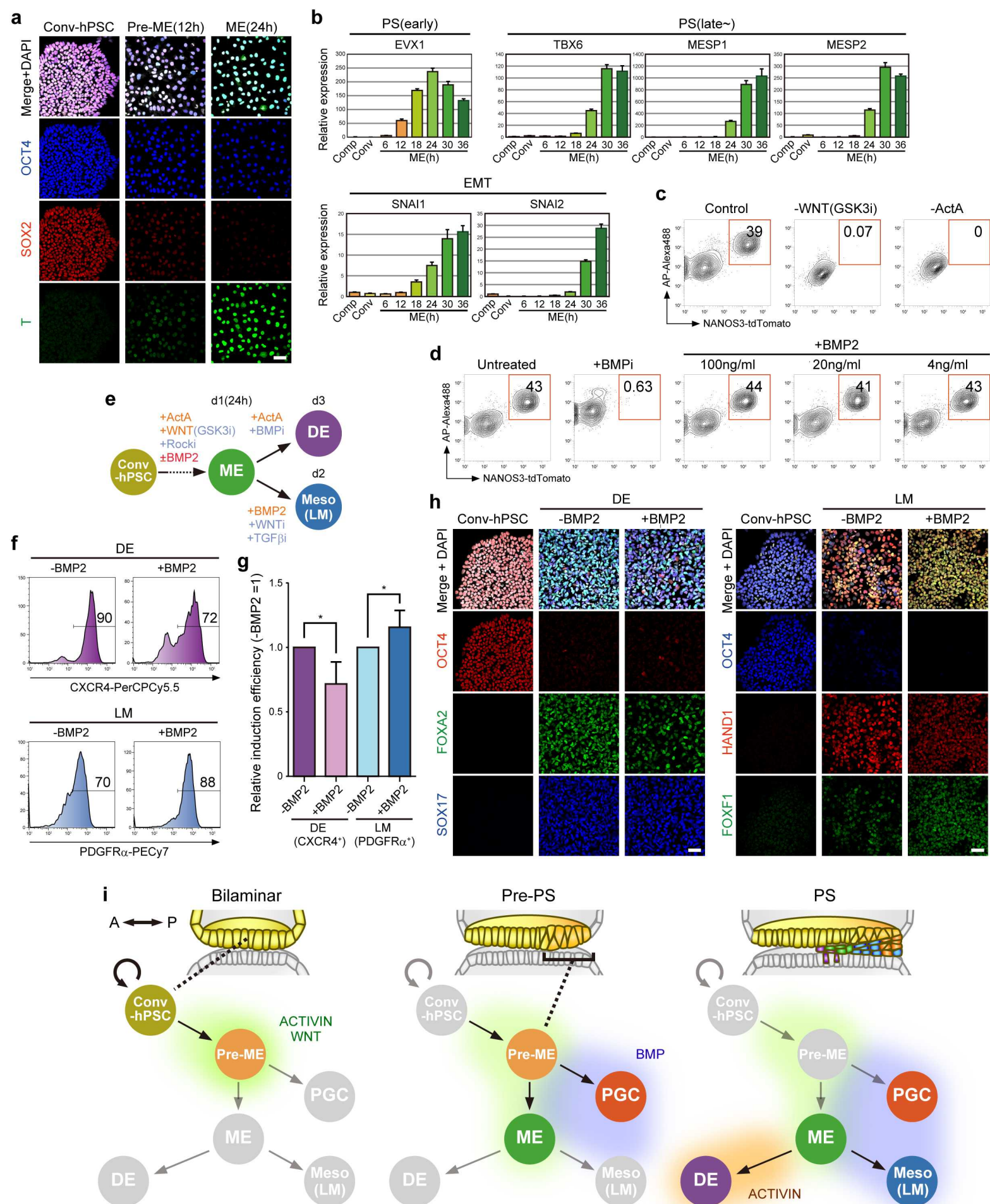
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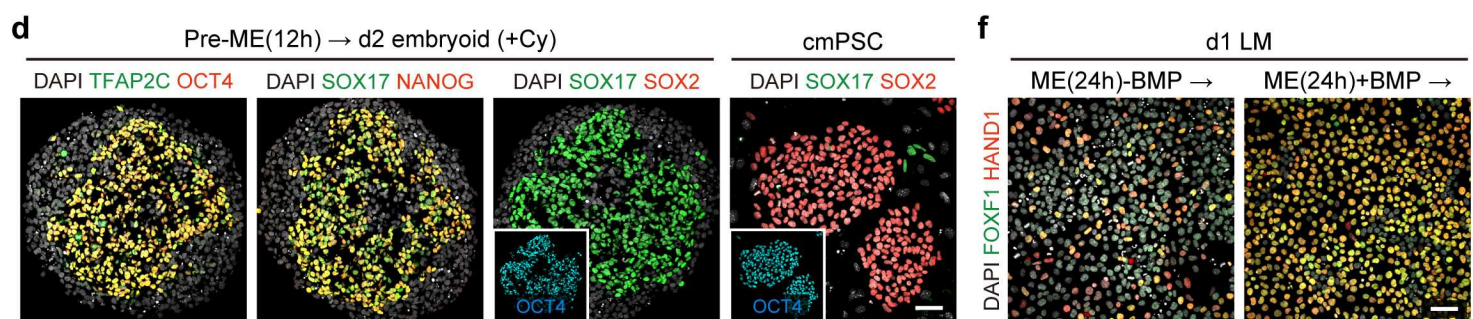
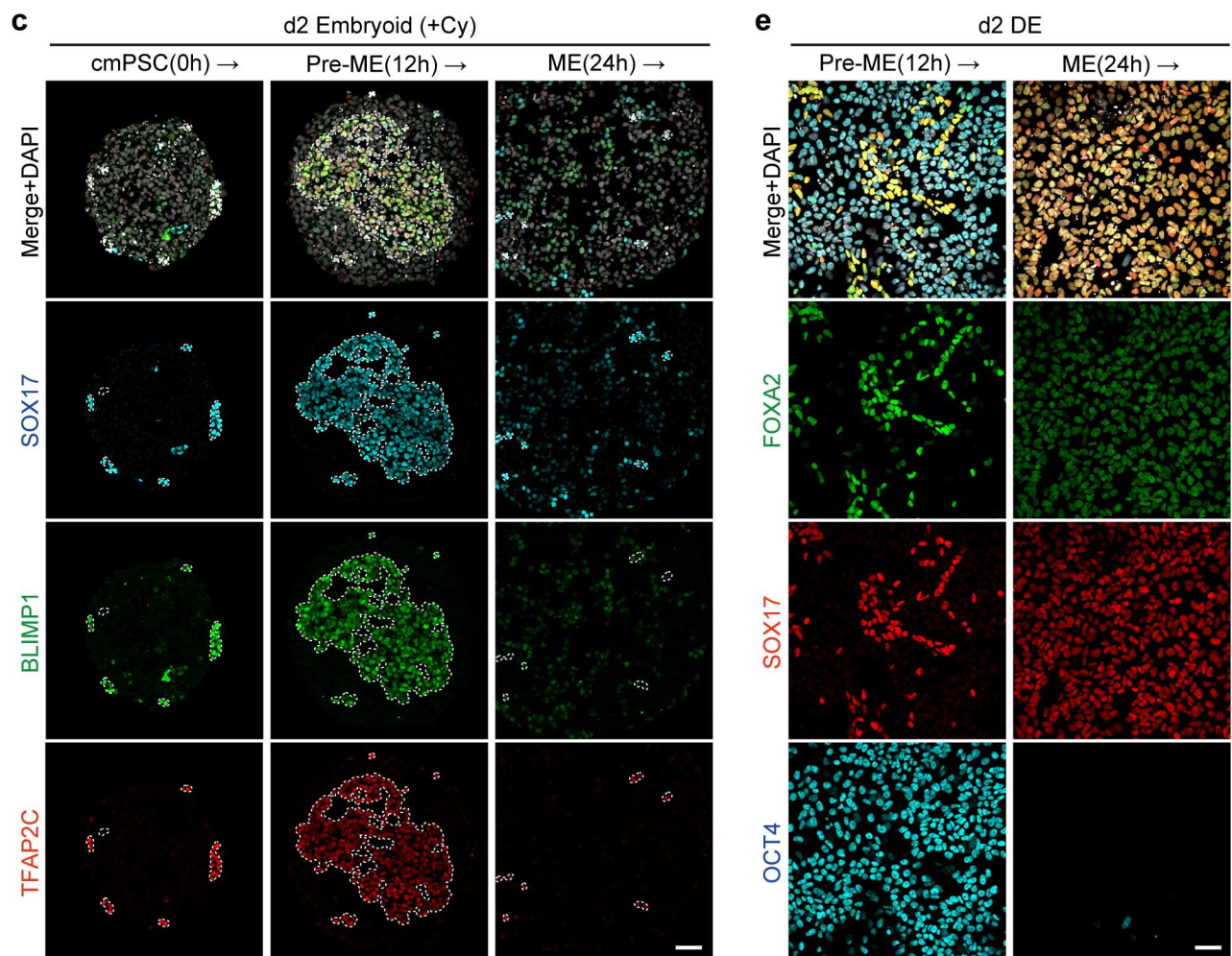
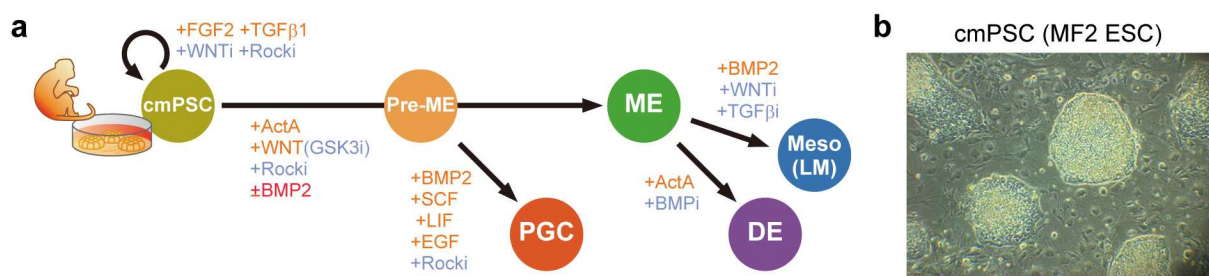
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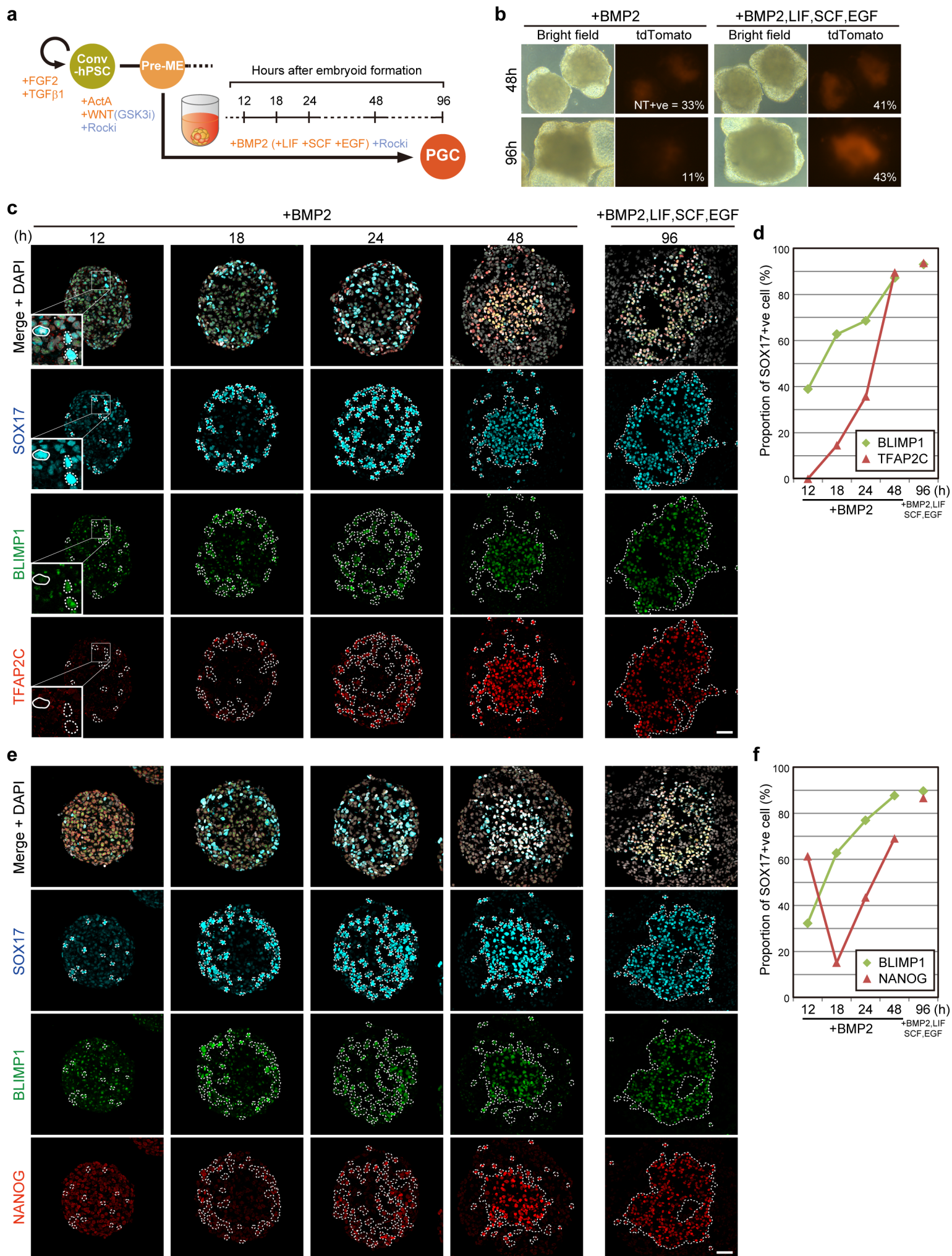
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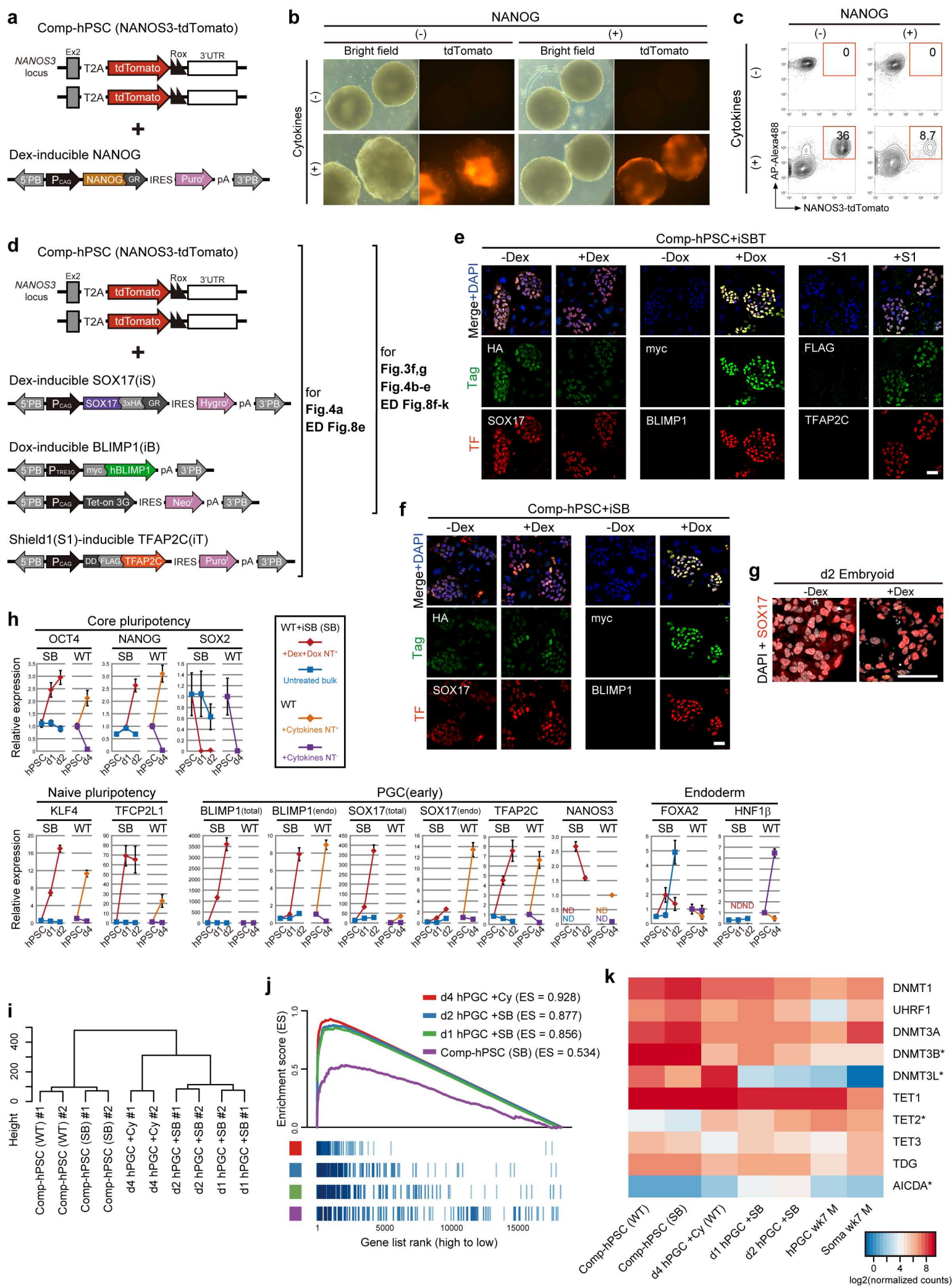
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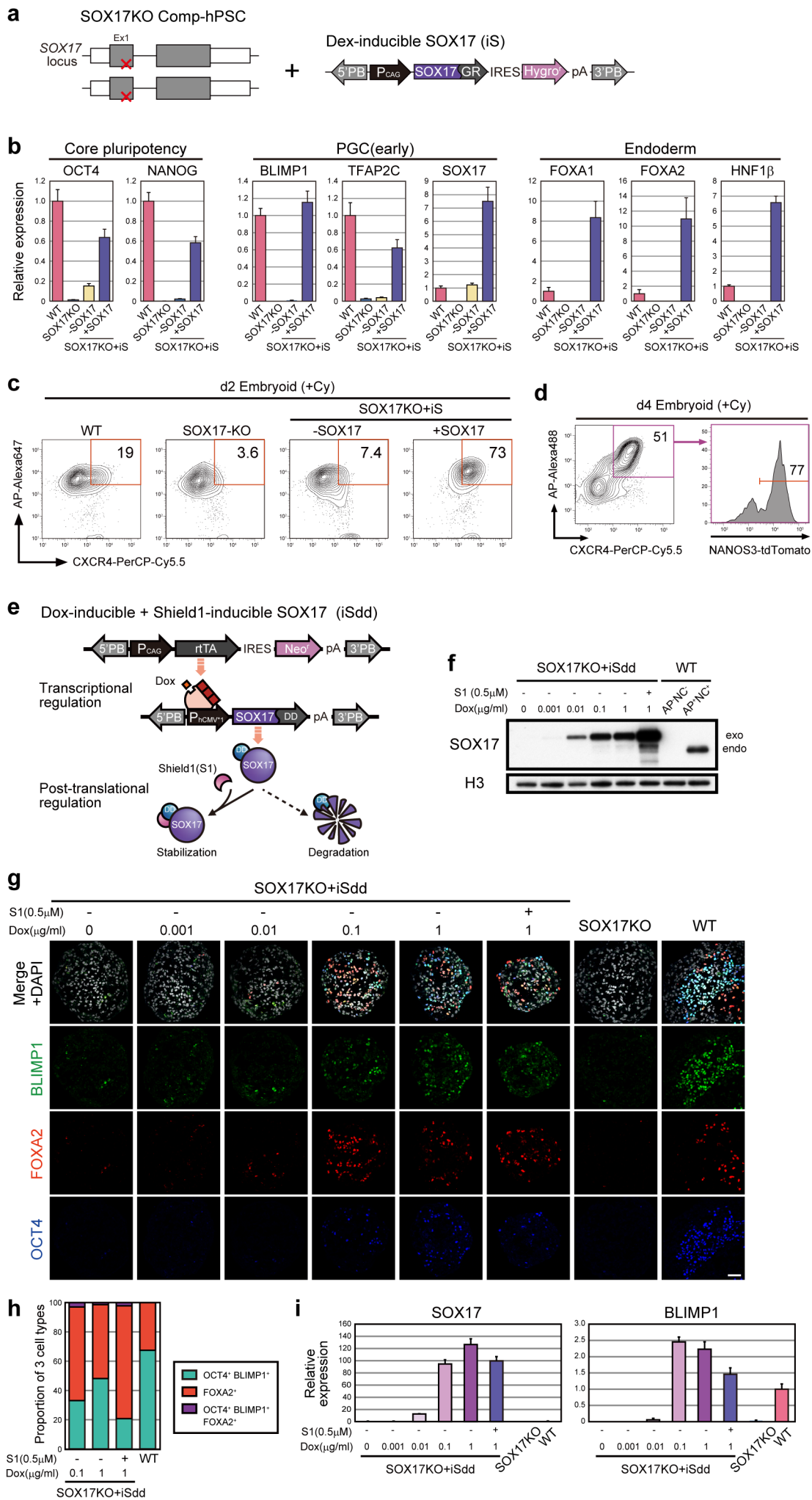
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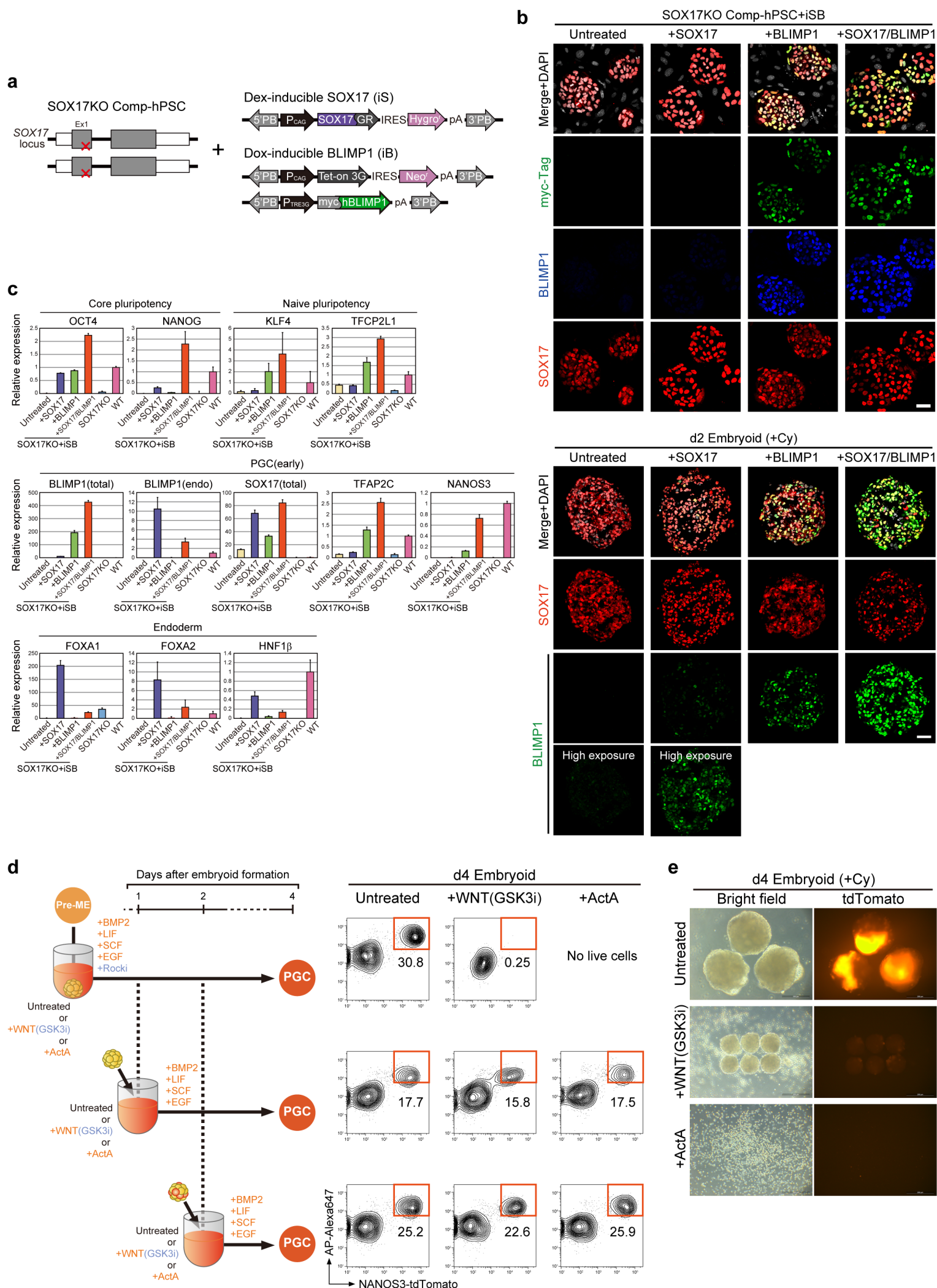
Extended Data Fig. 7



Extended Data Fig. 8



Extended Data Fig. 9



Extended Data Fig. 10

gene.symbol	hESC.SB1	hESC.SB1.1	hESC.W15	hESC.W15.1	PGCLC.D1.DD
APOE	8.596018998	8.861014098	8.426161467	8.587979933	9.654842323
MKRN1	8.384838643	8.356207256	8.57620232	8.444875456	9.172017229
PDPN	8.031643387	8.038782256	7.533708895	7.576321854	10.57081358
TCL1A	-0.350360289	-0.352897479	0.369251498	-0.334552612	-0.316657072
EPB41L2	9.062313803	9.241597472	9.071371878	9.069468612	8.639237415
PCSK1N	1.644463189	2.056963498	-0.220887524	1.660270866	7.369328311
MYBL2	8.677424622	8.657203513	8.796242211	8.797739259	9.213197332
SCGB3A2	12.34683261	12.57735976	12.58863099	12.63737107	9.609751952
LMO2	3.575531269	3.388569507	3.236249367	3.647922474	4.772733218
RASD1	4.967218281	4.490749902	4.435291301	4.587097281	9.579860211
PIM2	8.336571749	8.498457584	8.387027323	8.384957795	10.3083627
STOM	7.287550506	6.836028484	6.973214961	6.798339316	8.902857212
AKAP12	8.339032348	8.219382613	8.503370115	8.361171432	10.26311107
ETV5	6.003731483	6.273180299	5.843876935	6.178112186	7.974732202
SAMHD1	4.472290737	4.361693801	4.51085292	4.45804118	6.657625172
LCP1	6.059960073	6.144885724	7.436830754	7.798233774	5.1292872
CDCA7	7.8753624	7.758405299	7.431644676	7.557026932	6.209683206
NANOG	10.4631086	10.54675118	10.65125999	10.59386163	9.736796919
KIT	5.256839669	5.426881934	4.585130026	5.076582207	6.790696999
NLRP9	1.498674155	-1.673788037	0.370289035	0.34455683	1.532377372
TRIML2	5.667048587	5.52510834	7.14435741	6.624753309	1.037786792
NANOS3	0.497221812	0.494684621	1.216833599	0.513029489	6.174781219
FAM162B	2.669481649	3.541413577	3.389093437	3.100326826	5.577653985
ASRGL1	7.631795723	7.779153963	7.877866292	7.787976056	8.796285547
HENMT1	4.583365149	3.223275955	4.337742355	2.826583322	3.95995608
UPP1	6.060587233	5.961542061	7.171707984	7.150819751	6.12784301
CACNA2D2	6.0944449489	5.873732129	4.736058764	5.118669406	9.895795116
ESRP1	8.788137918	8.888988559	9.042199048	8.99469239	10.44456206
COL4A3BP	6.553955734	6.506094553	6.630176042	6.464906097	9.285579478
PQLC3	4.987368024	4.780472335	5.336611361	4.734686865	5.521969477
ERVW-1	4.70352913	4.528810965	4.671068431	4.351605023	7.369500563
ETV4	6.475193496	6.816388771	7.007381691	7.083268474	7.939412944
SOX15	5.668899383	5.198583231	5.723695362	5.247301747	7.719153776
DNMBP	6.03897138	6.407222435	7.577021589	7.338373328	6.899500804
TFCP2L1	2.912103789	2.464155451	3.538606172	3.015374308	8.011223141
CPEB1	3.163768454	2.161231263	3.919004151	3.665002958	5.852823499
GABRA3	0.237457236	1.55684814	0.542031524	1.060619835	5.369192536
TCL1B	4.042954752	3.983834033	2.762566539	2.817754329	3.546143252
SMAGP	5.162345658	4.319286682	5.754722257	5.101191353	2.629702053
BEND4	5.218997636	5.100983228	5.332993251	4.911670447	4.742944697
SLC43A1	5.926639489	5.246030394	6.470679712	6.156226457	6.266151136
FAM46B	6.512668677	6.546110784	6.515813181	6.088944293	6.97229771
TFAP2C	7.061462623	6.897733168	7.603658897	7.18064804	8.734067148
PLBD1	7.271591457	7.339041785	7.206345926	7.088715139	7.096895525
NFE2L3	7.650413967	7.509521855	7.291313779	7.321776113	7.17984253
OSBPL3	5.592824352	5.500401658	5.498409082	5.265980455	4.907204936
GPHA2	0.554328015	1.551790825	1.273939802	1.570135692	4.909959327
DDIT4L	3.139013154	2.44459826	2.714235032	2.84996625	6.334987801
CABYR	5.558959528	5.185328186	5.053697905	4.929050673	6.720670358

PHLDA3	5.816954472	4.970068153	5.341309968	4.921298824	6.301764444
SCUBE2	0.712787098	-0.512142513	0.794968965	-0.493797646	4.187062907
KIAA0226	4.689626299	4.029976822	4.590844893	4.048321689	4.421059947
KLF4	4.095650814	3.919084224	4.622617523	4.484916886	6.291974232
GCNT1	5.635735718	5.64376777	5.457709223	5.488893058	7.348505003
SUSD2	2.579940161	3.180067474	2.245104165	2.010785338	6.878346605
EFEMP1	3.892113463	3.853952363	3.061528167	3.009800754	3.568264675
CRIP1	2.285480189	1.282942999	1.683163882	3.564322272	7.074070909
PROM1	6.690020092	6.319864899	5.454774035	5.239324101	7.682577326
FAM102B	4.674949152	4.953824897	4.826149615	4.712783135	6.60713361
PCP4L1	1.940783671	1.616318386	2.660395459	3.722126095	5.992408797
FRMD6	4.384891828	4.481890311	4.408657008	4.740185971	5.196202624
UTF1	1.50283178	1.50029459	2.222443567	2.741031878	6.580929117
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IL4R	4.496338018	4.585723317	4.611878482	4.787780137	4.968614249
STON2	6.029064489	5.679114232	5.679689666	5.800798849	5.896346945
RBM24	3.015265249	2.860724965	2.412948941	3.796607672	6.048968466
ATP2A3	2.869657254	2.189048159	2.911197136	2.972927772	7.676499678
PSORS1C2	1.926639489	0.924102299	1.231213777	1.942447166	3.282270801
CAPN13	4.03626398	3.756192814	3.681875186	3.315106063	5.475959557
SOX17	6.274293032	7.031142731	4.885651929	7.023585735	6.681149668
PIFO	4.953047322	5.029222108	5.390623742	5.060278027	4.959529071
KLRG2	4.665939675	4.482830239	4.468013622	3.709761728	3.550779506
NLRP7	5.552387604	6.062663129	5.827336723	6.23301109	6.437992183
GABRQ	4.188161763	3.543518165	3.613590446	3.494748837	8.257318066
TDRD12	1.967425104	1.479461086	2.201610064	1.34580286	2.28123624
GNA14	3.140261701	3.400758916	3.345300315	3.293572901	3.173964918
AFAP1L1	2.069872373	1.526766801	0.959409161	1.407608145	3.74743178
PPARG	1.91876176	1.693832148	0.415981126	1.127214515	4.099306366
FGFR3	5.117300552	4.768767507	5.743802935	5.545491275	8.64191362
DND1	5.469156636	5.531714474	5.356225169	5.077306344	5.387382636
C1orf115	2.879129332	2.522955187	2.660141664	2.619302566	4.656057134
RIPK4	4.05361696	4.764198622	5.9085806	6.496239304	4.857022558
DEPDC7	2.583031328	3.513379942	3.165139592	3.139407387	4.649156023
ADAMTSL3	1.344143218	0.954582905	1.146217166	1.664805477	2.244579905
FAM124B	1.337215616	1.334678426	1.931296521	1.353023293	6.160995764
RTN4RL1	0.59050542	1.073395057	0.795544034	1.284385002	4.346674662
COL23A1	2.847420472	3.166811377	1.704535783	2.863228149	5.478058832
FMN2	0.251442911	1.248905721	0.864139495	2.414091976	3.178230925
FAM155B	3.877047396	3.64318466	3.1271739	2.59739919	3.285146129
MYB	2.503423574	3.867668714	2.975107848	3.593231832	6.508367798
BSPRY	3.151503337	1.901038633	3.832640977	3.241311595	3.39671066
NGEF	-1.552309774	0.030115536	0.489230108	-0.536502097	4.61067646
ADCY1	2.959602773	2.631079271	2.695334225	2.87471645	4.844002046
MMP25	3.429666544	3.297846337	2.827350236	3.486116205	5.673936747
CD38	-1.375039922	0.622422888	-0.33350004	0.225730256	-0.341336705
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KANK4	0.906980963	0.904443773	-0.051479155	0.507751141	1.400115799
C12orf39	-0.753159349	2.244303461	-0.033547562	1.584576423	4.565946087
KIF5A	2.912881565	3.343303782	2.834127213	3.38812086	5.470146738
S100Z	3.03626398	3.381650093	3.820006105	4.293079757	3.310975297
FILIP1	1.806144197	2.017731812	2.663259508	2.307378701	3.703785864
HS3ST4	1.447239454	3.398898574	2.488779336	0.463047131	0.480942671
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4.857606037	5.555699423	-2.892446353	-0.450005081
4.853569631	5.580248394	1.254122681	1.318052331
4.32234264	5.722263391	1.406668345	1.112144024
4.296553758	4.531022983	-0.377147747	1.065293525
4.29642442	4.901685321	0.271815754	1.003763643
4.112470693	4.053208716	0.023731689	-1.118789539
3.955063806	4.415414439	-1.492756292	-2.63527752
3.709022735	2.820577027	-0.714135308	-0.271694035
3.61791878	4.20602496	-1.70214577	-1.259704497
3.583309137	5.873022737	0.111241494	-1.031279734
3.346616758	5.45497975	1.026552208	1.053955982
3.175129951	4.153786628	0.768650649	0.500598539
3.083416287	3.593519955	-1.154186103	0.28825517
2.677217155	4.556554633	-2.057884894	-1.615443622
2.617117261	4.449149024	-2.620485129	0.143884238
2.347746512	2.402170696	-0.387355538	-1.359951764
1.81586527	2.459235469	-0.82903897	-1.524101222
-0.551324579	3.602635279	-1.701464128	-1.259022855

Antigen	Company
NANOG	Peprotech
BRACHYURY(T)	R&D
OCT4	SantaCruz
OCT4	BD Biosciences
TFAP2C	SantaCruz
TFAP2C	R&D
SOX2	SantaCruz
SOX2	Abcam
SOX17	R&D
BLIMP1	eBioscience
Sda/GM2(CT1)	in house (Klisch <i>et al.</i> , <i>Reproduction</i> (2011))
Phospho-Smad1/Smad5/Smad8	EMD Millipore
FOXA2	Cell Signaling Technology
HA-tag	Cell Signaling Technology
HA-tag	Biolegend
Myc-tag	Cell Signaling Technology
5mC	Eurogentec
5hmC	Active Motif
G9a	Cell Signaling
H3K9me2	Active Motif
Tet1	GeneTex
UHRF1	Active Motif
DNMT3A	Santa Cruz
RFP (for tdTomato)	chromotek
HAND1	R&D
FOXF1	Abcam

Cat No.	Dilution
500-P236	1:300
AF2085	1:300
sc-8628	1:300
611203	1:250
sc-8977	1:300
AF5059	1:500
sc-17320	1:300
ab97959	1:200
AF1924	1:300
14-5963	1:50
	1:50
AB3848	1:300
8186P	1:300
3724S	1:500
901501	1:500
2276S	1:4000
BI-MECY-0100	1:500
39791	1:1500
#3306	1:100
39376	1:1500
GTX627420	1:200
61341	1:300
sc-20703	1:500
5f8-100	1:500
AF3168	1:250
ab168383	1:250

Gene	Forward (5'→3')
GAPDH	CGCTTCGCTCTCTGCTCCTCCTGT
OCT3/4	GCTGGAGCAAAACCCGGAGG
NANOG	TGCTGAGATGCCTCACACGGA
SOX2	ACACCAA TCCCA TCCACACT
KLF4	AGCCTAAATGATGGTGCTTGGT
TFCP2L1	AGCTCAAAGTTGTCCTACTGCC
SOX17(total)	GAGCCAAGGGCGAGTCCCGTA
SOX17(endo)	CCTGGGTTTTTGTGTTGCT
BLIMP1(total)	CTACCCTTATCCCGGAGAGC
BLIMP1(endo)	CGGGGAGAATGTGGACTGGGTAGAG
TFAP2C	ATTAAGAGGATGCTGGGCTCTG
NANOS3	CCCGAAACTCGGCAGGCAAGA
FOXA1	AAGGCATACGAACAGGCACTG
FOXA2	ACCCGGTTTTATCCCTTGAATC
HNF1B	CAATCCACTCTCAGGAGGCG
T	AGCCAAAGACAATCAGCAGAAA
MIXL1	TGCTTTCAAAACACTCGAGGAC
GSC	GTCGAGAAAGAGGAACGAGGAG
EVX1	CAAATCCTCACTCCCACACTCA
EOMES	CAACATAAACGGACTCAATCCCA
TBX6	AAGTACCAACCCCGCATACA
MESP1	GTGCTGGCTCTGTTGGAGA
MESP2	AGCTTGGGTGCCTCCTTATT
SNAI1	CACTATGCCGCGCTCTTTC
SNAI2	CAGACCCTGGTTGCTTCAA

Reverse (5'→3')	Reference
GGTGACCAGGCGCCCAATACGA	Irie et al., <i>Cell</i> (2015)
TCGGCCTGTGTATATCCCAGGGTG	Irie et al., <i>Cell</i> (2015)
TGACCGGGACCTTGTCTTCCTT	Irie et al., <i>Cell</i> (2015)
CCTCCCCAGGTTTTCTCTGT	Irie et al., <i>Cell</i> (2015)
CCTTGTCAAAGTATGCAGCAGT	Sasaki et al., <i>Cell Stem Cell</i> (2015)
TTCTAACCCAAGCACAGATCCC	Sasaki et al., <i>Cell Stem Cell</i> (2015)
CCTTCCACGACTTGCCCAGCAT	Irie et al., <i>Cell</i> (2015)
CCCCAAACTGTTCAAGTGG	
GGACATTCTTTGGGCAGAGT	
CTGGAGTTACACTTGGGGGCAGC	Irie et al., <i>Cell</i> (2015)
CACTGTACTGCACACTCACCTT	Sasaki et al., <i>Cell Stem Cell</i> (2015)
AAGGCTCAGACTTCCCGGCAC	Irie et al., <i>Cell</i> (2015)
TACACACCTTGGTAGTACGCC	Loh et al., <i>Cell Stem Cell</i> (2014)
ATACAACCTGCAACCAGACAGG	Sasaki et al., <i>Cell Stem Cell</i> (2015)
ATCGTGGGAGAGGCATTGTG	Irie et al., <i>Cell</i> (2015)
CACAAAAGGAGGGGCTTCACTA	Sasaki et al., <i>Cell Stem Cell</i> (2015)
GAGTGATCGAAGTAACAGGTGC	Sasaki et al., <i>Cell Stem Cell</i> (2015)
AAATACTACGGTGGGGGCTAGT	Sasaki et al., <i>Cell Stem Cell</i> (2015)
GAAGAACCCTCCCTCTCAGTC	Sasaki et al., <i>Cell Stem Cell</i> (2015)
ACCACCTCTACGAACACATTGT	Loh et al., <i>Cell Stem Cell</i> (2014)
TAGGCTGTCACGGAGATGAA	Loh et al., <i>Cell Stem Cell</i> (2014)
CTCGGTGCTCACAGAGACG	
TGCTTCCCTGAAAGACATCA	Loh et al., <i>Cell Stem Cell</i> (2014)
GGTCGTAGGGCTGCTGGAA	Unternaehrer et al., <i>Stem Cell Reports</i> (2014)
TGACCTGTCTGCAAATGCTC	???